



5

George
Asakura

Drowning Love

Drowning
Love

Drowning Love

17

Double-Check p5

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The Winter Sky p49

19

The Girl from Hinemosu Inn p91

20

The Girl from the Mountain Berry Cafe p135

THE STORY SO FAR...

NATSUME WAS KIDNAPPED BY AN OVERZEALOUS FAN. KOU ATTEMPTED TO SAVE HER BUT WAS ATTACKED IN THE PROCESS, AND BOTH OF THEM WERE RESCUED AND BROUGHT TO SAFETY BY ADULTS. FEELING POWERLESS, THE PAIR ATTEMPTED TO RETURN TO HOW LIFE USED TO BE. THEY RAN AWAY AGAIN, ONLY TO BE STRUCK BY THE HARSH REALITY OF JUST HOW DIFFERENT THINGS HAVE BECOME...

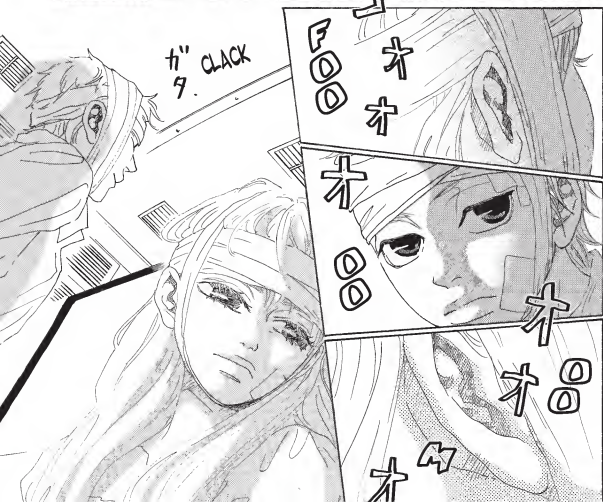
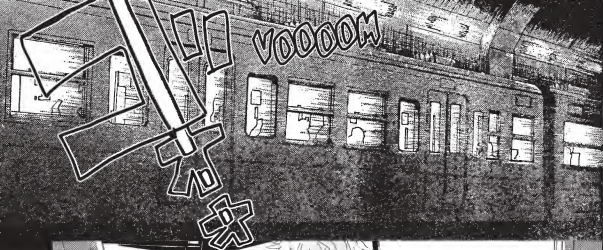
Drowning
Love

17

Double-Check





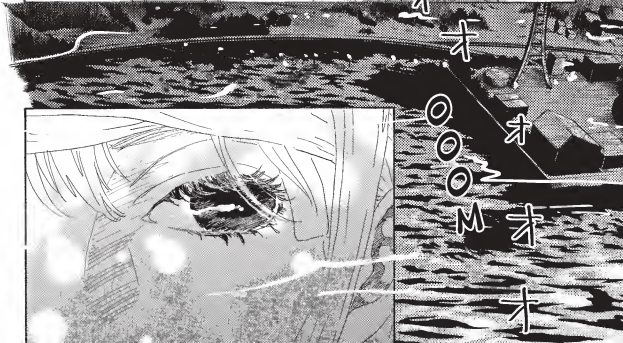
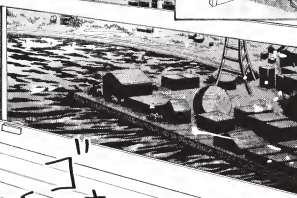


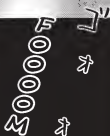
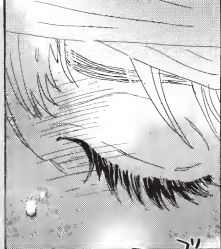
SORRY.
CAN YOU
TALK TO THE
HINEMOSU INN
PEOPLE FOR
ME?

LIKE I SAID,
WE'RE ON OUR
WAY HOME,
OKAY?

GO-TOX

GO-TOX





HEY,
UM...

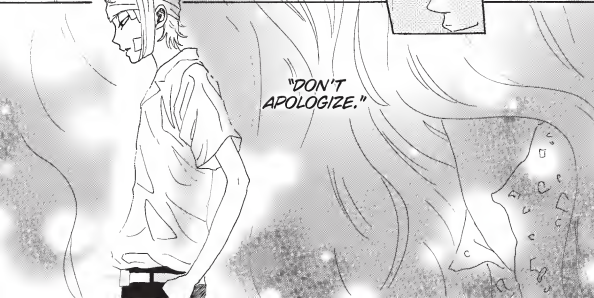
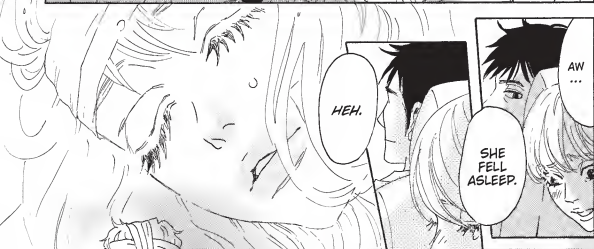
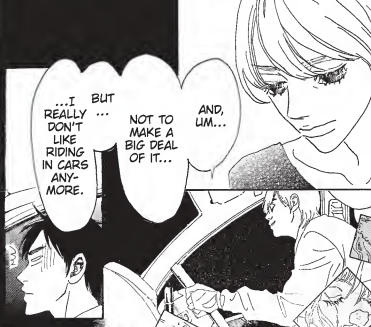


*UKIGUMO



I HAVEN'T
REALLY
BEEN ABLE
TO SLEEP
LATELY...

NATSLIME!





"I
UNDERSTAND."

YOU
WON'T
WANT
TO BE
NEAR ME
ANYMORE.



WE'RE
ALMOST
TO
TOKYO!

I DON'T
WANT YOU
TO UNDER-
STAND. I
DON'T WANT
YOU TO
KNOW.





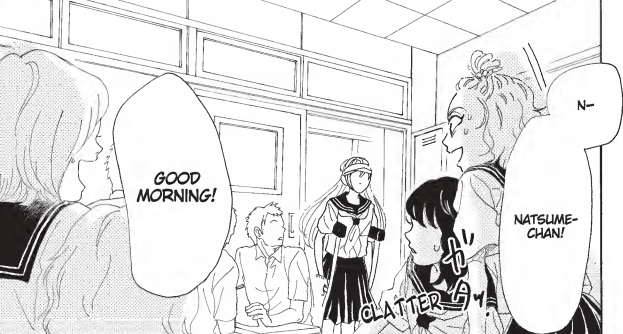
THERE
YA
ARE.

I'LL
COME PICK
YOU UP
AFTER,
TOO.



OKAY.

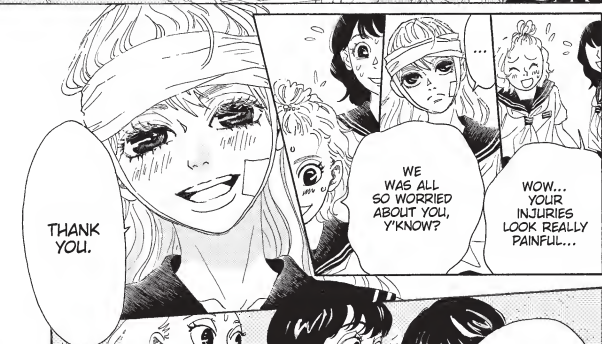
THANK
YOU,
GRANDPA.



GOOD
MORNING!

N-
NATSUME-
CHAN!

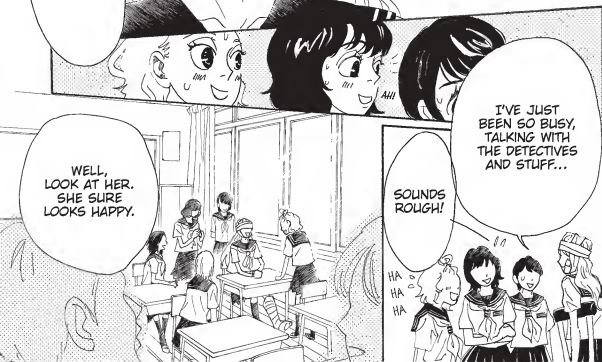
CLATTER



THANK
YOU.

WE
WAS ALL
SO WORRIED
ABOUT YOU,
Y'KNOW?

WOW...
YOUR
INJURIES
LOOK REALLY
PAINFUL...



WELL,
LOOK AT HER.
SHE SURE
LOOKS HAPPY.

I'VE JUST
BEEN SO BUSY,
TALKING WITH
THE DETECTIVES
AND STUFF...

SOUNDS
ROUGH!

HA
HA
HA

I HEARD
SHE'S DONE
LOST HER
MEMORY,
THOUGH.

AT LEAST,
FOR SOME-
ONE WHO
EVERYBODY
SAYS GOT...
Y'KNOW.

SHHHK
カ
ラ

...

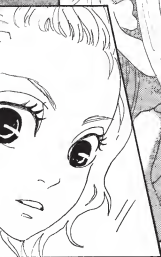
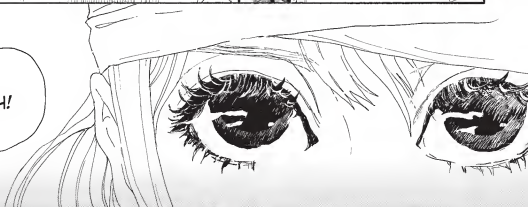
OH!

MOCHI-
ZUKI...

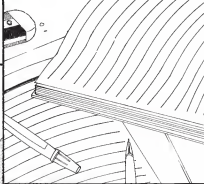
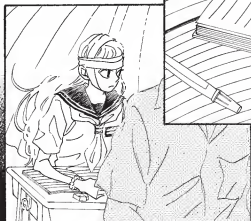
SHE
CAME TO
SCHOOL..

OH.

DID
SHE
NOW?

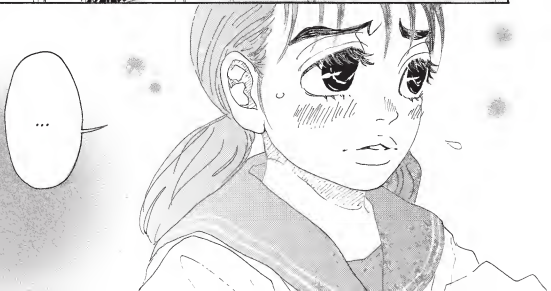


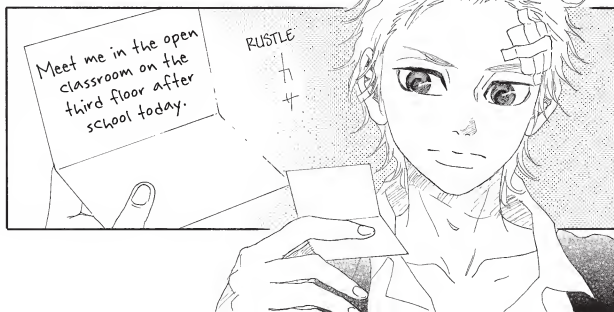
VRRR

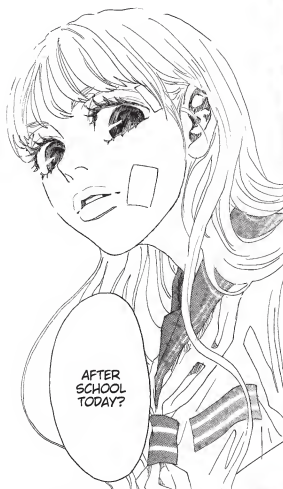


DID
THEY
BREAK
UP?









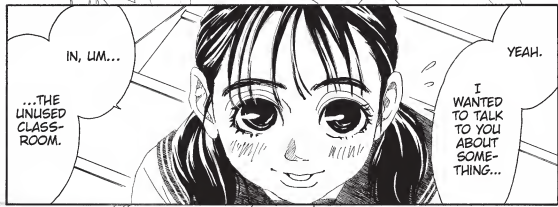
AFTER
SCHOOL
TODAY?



HUH?



...
WHAT THE
HECK
IS THIS?

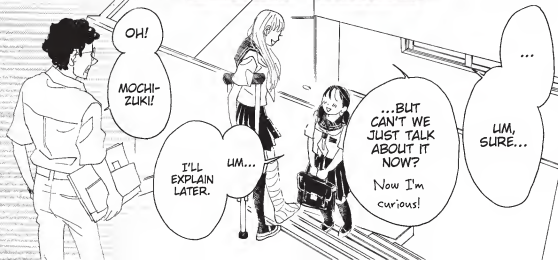


IN, UM...

YEAH.

...THE
UNUSED
CLASS-
ROOM.

I
WANTED
TO TALK
TO YOU
ABOUT
SOME-
THING...



OH!

MOCHI-
ZUKI!

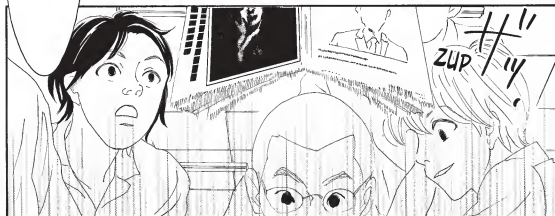
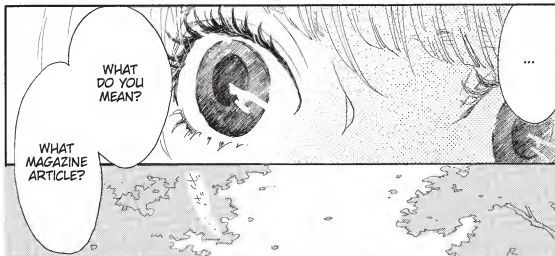
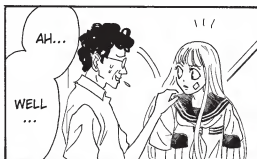
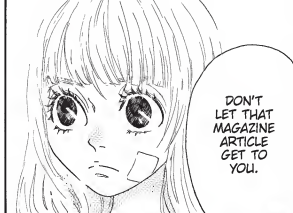
I'LL
EXPLAIN
LATER.

UM...

...BUT
CAN'T WE
JUST TALK
ABOUT IT
NOW?

Now I'm
curious!

...
UM,
SURE...



REHOUSING GIRL

HER SUDDEN WITHDRAWAL FROM FILMING !!!

IN THE FACE OF THIS SCANDALOUS SHOOT, IT IS UNDISTINGUISHABLE FROM SEXUAL ASSAULT... CAN WE FORGIVE TO CONTINUE IGNORING THE RIGHTS OF OUR CHILDREN?

THE STAR OF THE POPULAR 'MITSUYA REHOUSING' COMMERCIAL, NATSUME MOCHIZUKI (19)

A THIRTEEN-YEAR-OLD GIRL, DEFILED ON THE NIGHT OF A TRADITIONAL FESTIVAL!

SHINGO HIRONO (22)

Was this the secret lover of Shingo Hirono, famous photographer of underage girls?

Killed and driven to the heart of the forest.

His desperate plea for his child in the mountains. Start naked as rescue pulled her to safety.

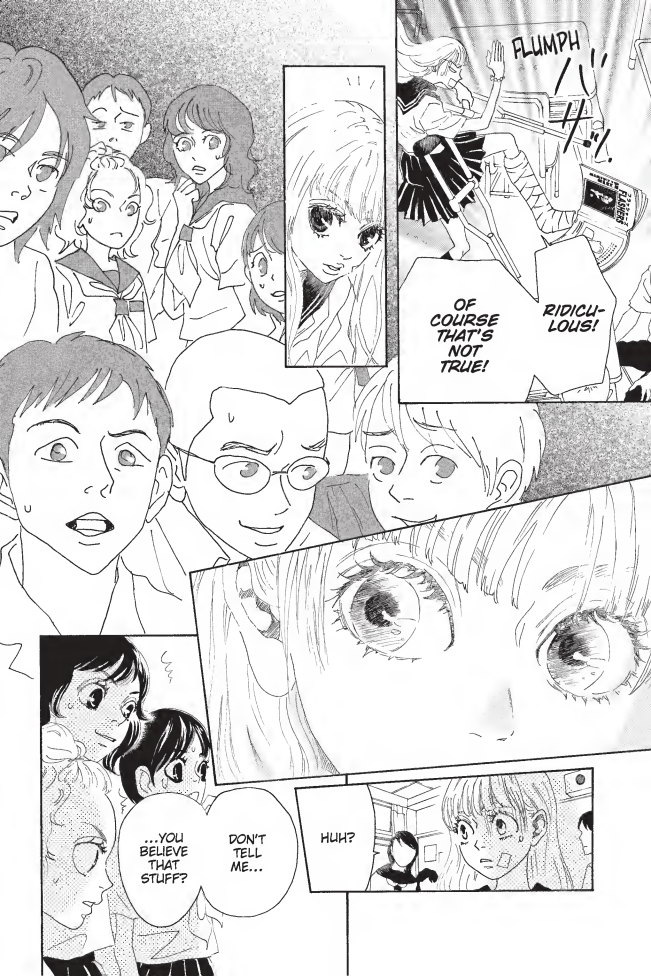
HER LOVER, HIRONO, CONSUMED BY RAGE! UNABLE TO DENY HER RAPE, SHE IS ABANDONED AND STRICKEN FROM THE FILM. THE FULL DETAILS OF HER TRAGIC STORY REVEALED!

HER INTIMATE UNPUBLISHED FILM SHOOT WITH BORDERLINE SMUT PEDDLER SHOGO HIRONO! AN ANONYMOUS SOURCE CLOSE TO THE MATTER DETAILS THE DISTURBING SCENE...

UM...?

FLASHERS

フラッシュャーズ
FLASHERS



FLUMPH

OF
COURSE
THAT'S
NOT
TRUE!

RIDICU-
LOUS!

...YOU
BELIEVE
THAT
STUFF?

DON'T
TELL
ME...

HUH?



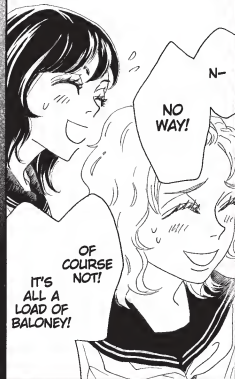
WHISPER

ボ
ッ

WOULD A
MAGAZINE
REALLY
RUN A
FAKE
STORY,
THOUGH
?

RIGHT?

...



N-

NO
WAY!

OF
COURSE
NOT!

IT'S
ALL A
LOAD OF
BALONEY!



...





DIE!

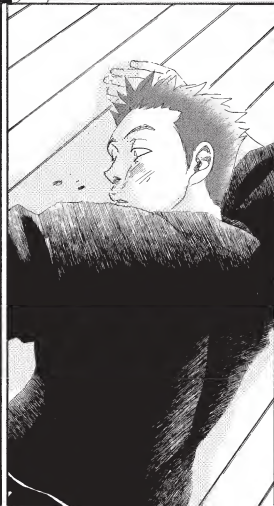
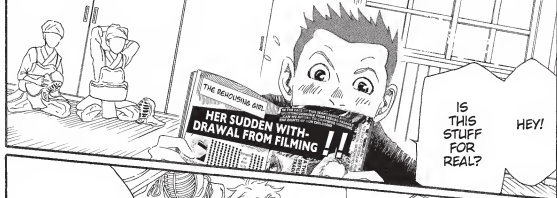
SQUEEZE

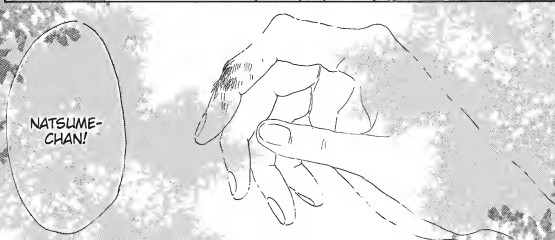
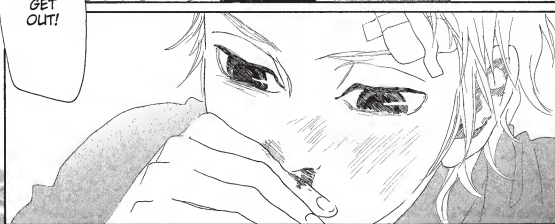
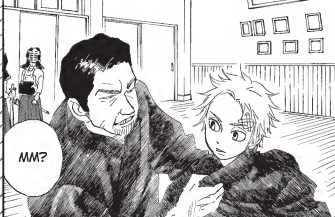
**HASEGAWA!
HEY,
HASEGAWA!**

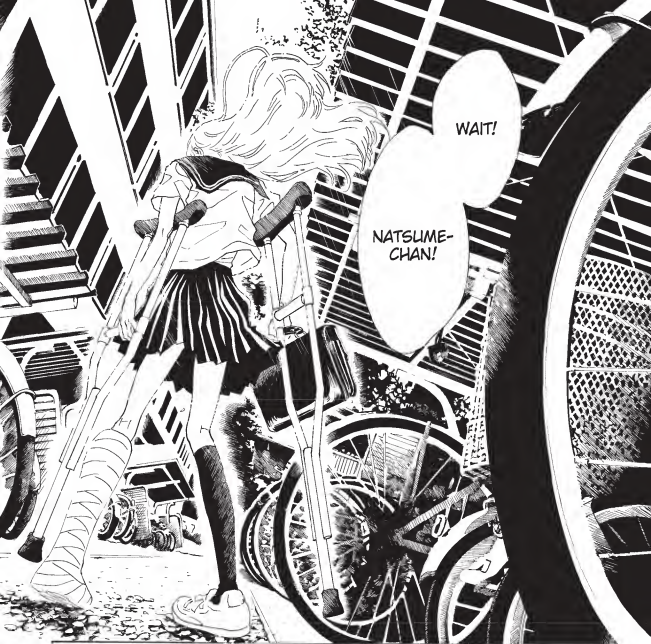


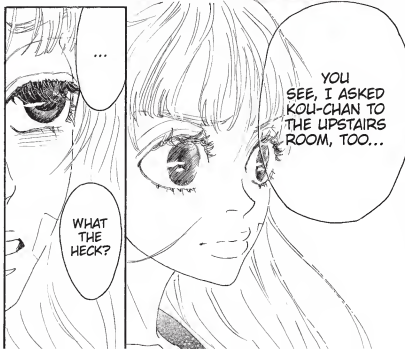
DIE!













IT'S
JUST...

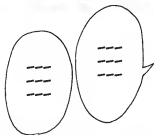
S-SORRY. I
SHOULDN'T'VE
...

UM...

OH!

...I THOUGHT
I'D GET YOU
BOTH IN ONE
ROOM TO
TALK IT OUT.
IT'S THE ONLY
THING I COULD
THINK OF DOIN'
TO HELP.

I WAS JUST
THINKIN' IF THERE
WAS SOME KINDA
MISUNDERSTANDIN'
BETWEEN YOU
TWO...



IT
LOOKS
LIKE...

KANA-
CHAN HAS
BEEN
LOSING
WEIGHT.





BUT ME,
I BELIEVE
THAT NOTHIN'
UNTOWARD
HAPPENED,
YOU KNOW?

...THAT
EVERY-
ONE'S
BEEN
TALKIN'
AND
STUFF
...

I
KNOW
...

AND, YOU
KNOW,
ABOUT WHAT
HAPPENED...

I MEAN,
KOU-CHAN
WAS WITH
YOU, WASN'T
HE?

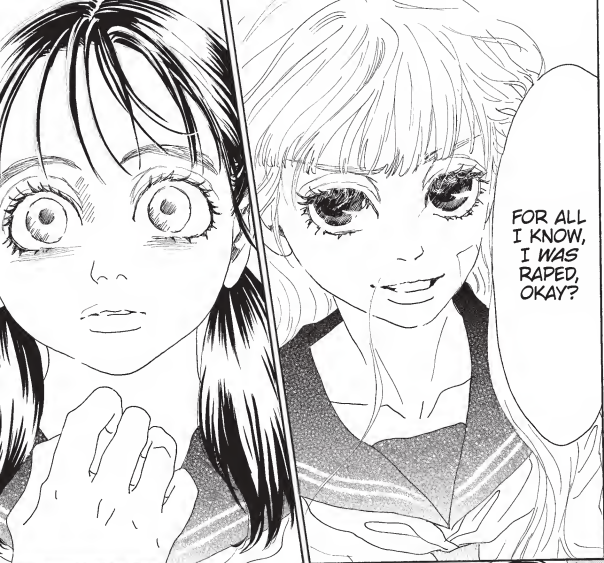
WHAT ARE
YOU EVEN
SAYING?

AN' THEY'LL
ALL GET
BORED OF IT
EVENTUALLY
...

YOU KNOW
I DON'T
REMEMBER
ANYTHING,
RIGHT?

COME
ON.

YOU
BELIEVE?



FOR ALL
I KNOW,
I WAS
RAPED,
OKAY?



WHY DON'T
YOU DATE
HIM?

IF YOU LIKE
KOU-CHAN
THAT MUCH?
IF YOU
TRUST HIM
THAT MUCH?

AND
ANYWAY
...

...



HE
WAS...

...MY
GOD.



LET
ME
TELL
YOU!

NOT
ONCE...

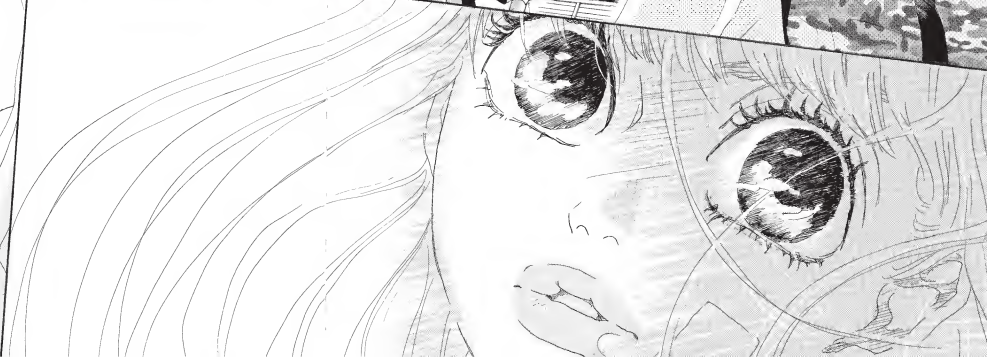
I ENVY
YOUR
ABILITY TO
TRUST IN
HIM!

NOT
ONCE!

...HAS
KOU-
CHAN
EVER...

...DONE
ANYTHING
TO HELP
ME!

HE
WAS A
GOD.





CRUNCH

CRUNCH

CRUNCH

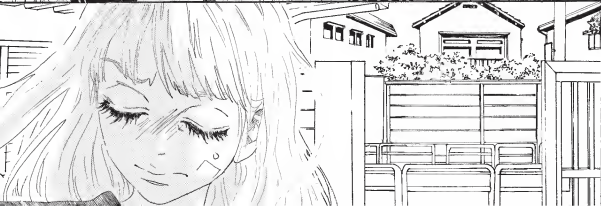
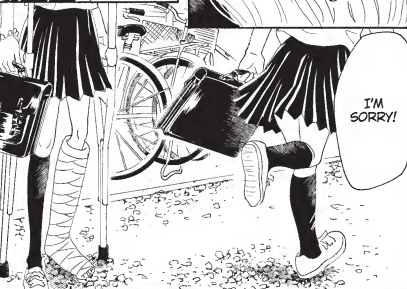
...

CRUNCH

...NO.

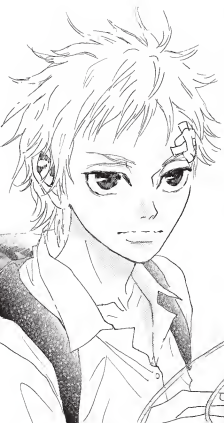
CLACK

か
ッ









WH-?!



...YOU
SHOULD GET
CHECKED
OUT AT THE
HOSPITAL.

IF YOU
CAN'T
HEAR...

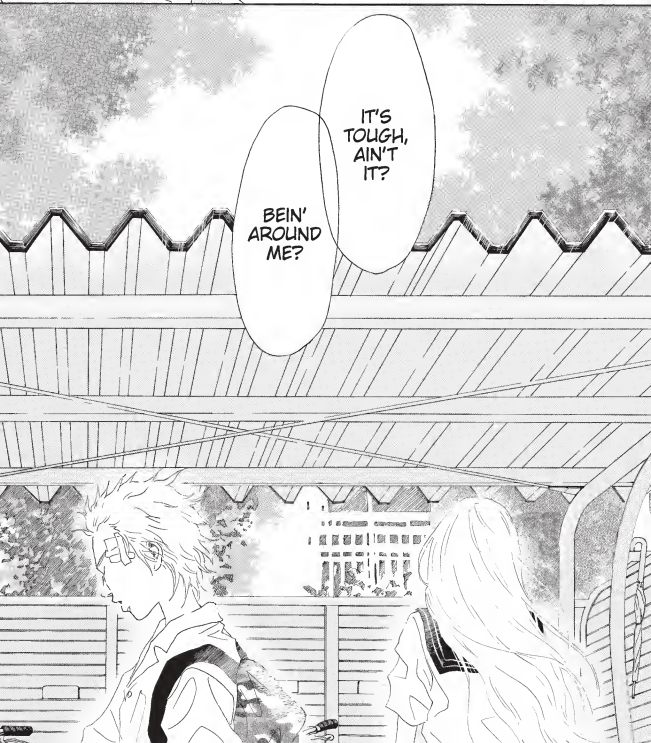


YOU
KNOW
...

...

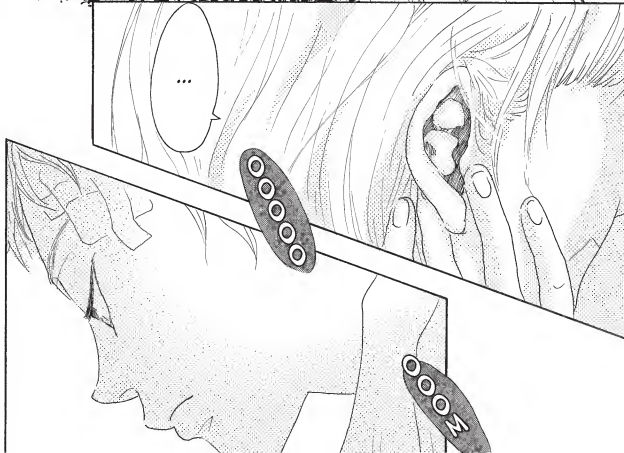
...BEIN'
ONE KIND OF
DISAPPOINTMENT
AFTER ANOTHER.

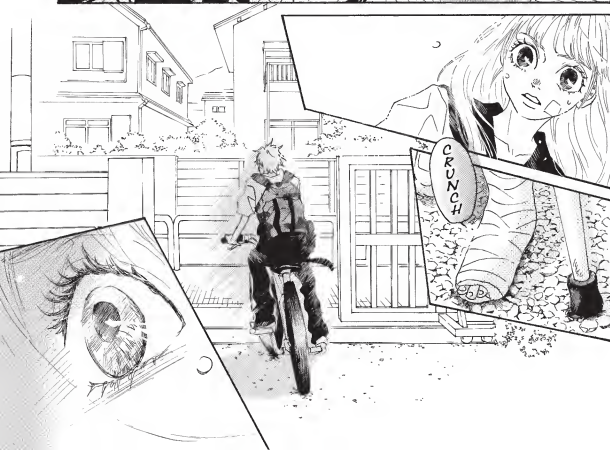
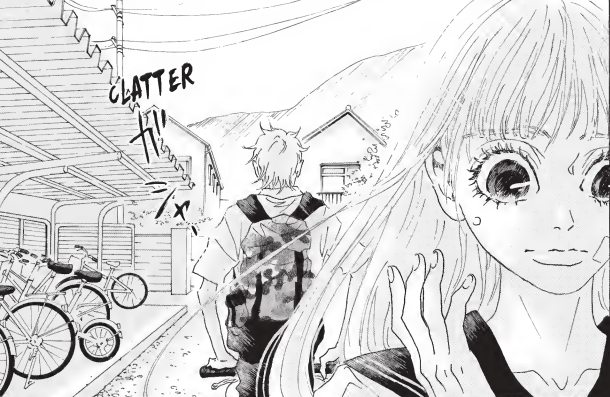
I SPENT
MY WHOLE LIFE
SO FAR...



BEIN'
AROUND
ME?

IT'S
TOUGH,
AIN'T
IT?







...DON'T
...

...GO...



THAT'S
BECAUSE
...

...NOTHING
EVER GETS
PAST YOU,
KOLI-CHAN.
YOU SEE
RIGHT
THROUGH
ME.

AH...

YEAH,
IT IS
TOUGH.

...HE'S
GONE.

ooooooooo

MY
GOD...

...IS
GONE.





Drowning
Love





Takumi Hasume (27)

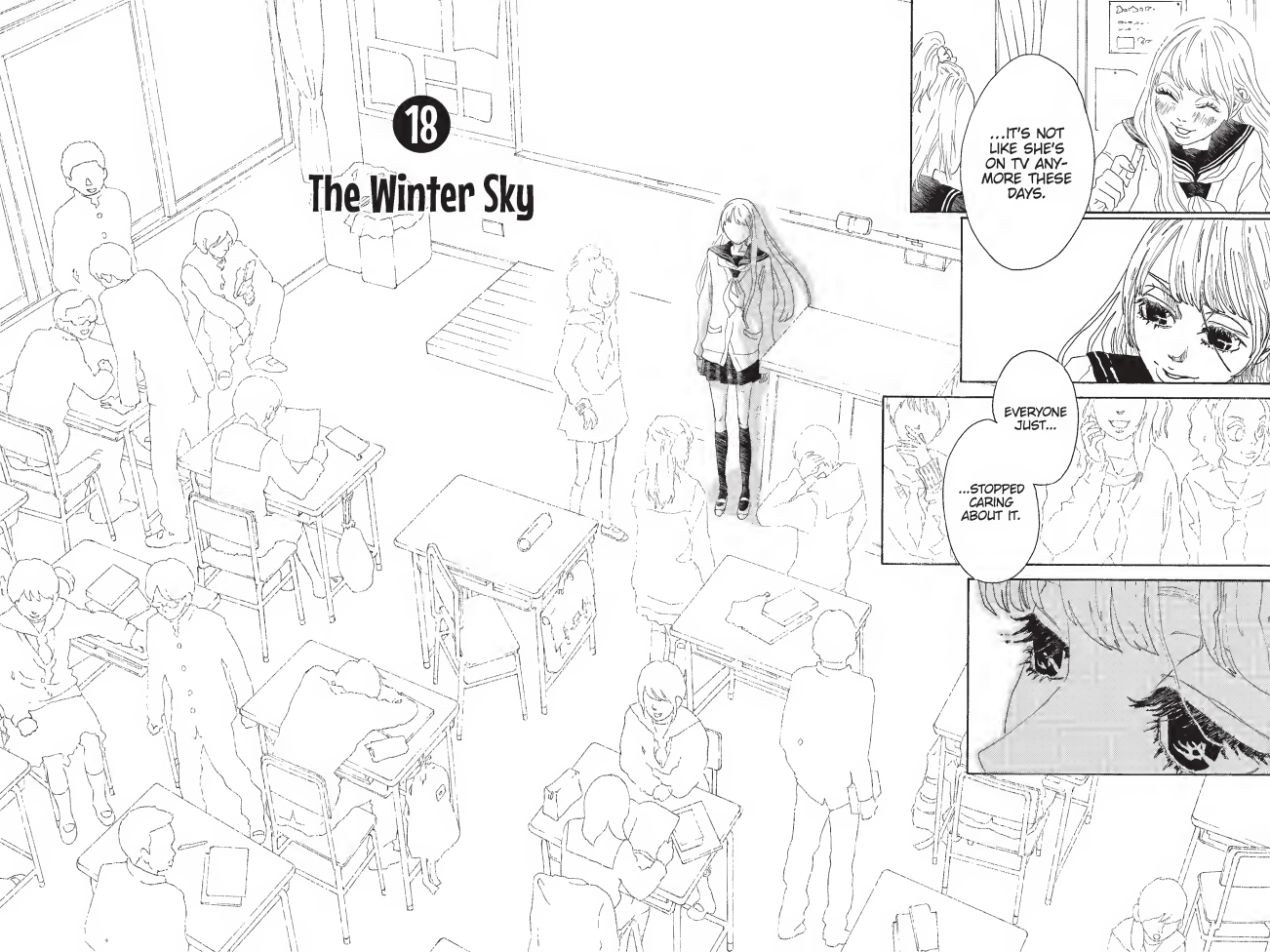
**Sentence: For the crime of abduction, injury,
and confinement of a minor, three years
imprisonment.**

THREE
YEARS?



18

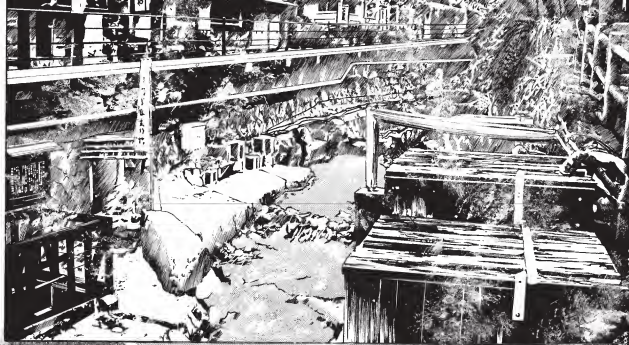
The Winter Sky



...IT'S NOT
LIKE SHE'S
ON TV ANY-
MORE THESE
DAYS.

EVERYONE
JUST...

...STOPPED
CARING
ABOUT IT.



...

I'LL RETURN IT TODAY. I REALLY SHOULD DO IT.

NATSLIME!

7
VRRRR

IT'S BEEN FOUR MONTHS ALREADY! I'M ALL HEALED UP.

AND HE'S IN PRISON NOW... AND I GOT OVER MY FEAR OF CARS.

IT'S BEEN FOUR MONTHS ALREADY! I'M ALL HEALED UP.

AND HE'S IN PRISON NOW...AND I GOT OVER MY FEAR OF CARS.

LEMME
TAKE
YOU TO
SCHOOL!

HA HA HA!
I CAN GO BY
MYSELF NOW,
GRANDPA!

You silly old
man!

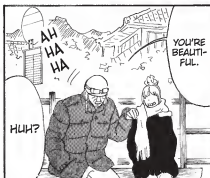
You silly old man!

THE HAG
GODDESS
OF THE
MOUNTAIN
...

...IS
SURELY
JEALOUS
OF YA.

EVERY-
THING'S
BACK TO
HOW IT
USED TO
BE.

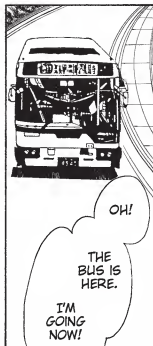
EVERY-
THING.





I
WONDER
...

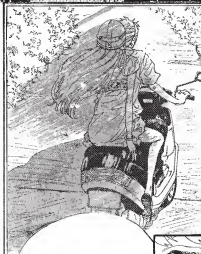
...IF
I'M REALLY
WELCOME
HERE.



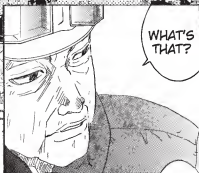
OH!

THE
BUS IS
HERE.

I'M
GOING
NOW!

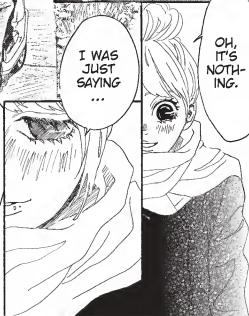


...YOU
SHOULD TEACH
ME HOW TO RIDE
MOTORCYCLES
SOMETIME.

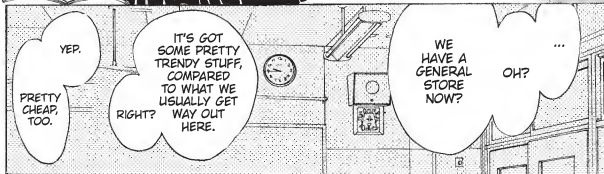
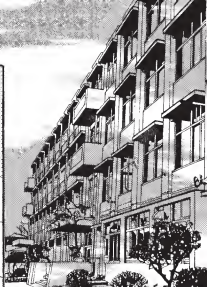
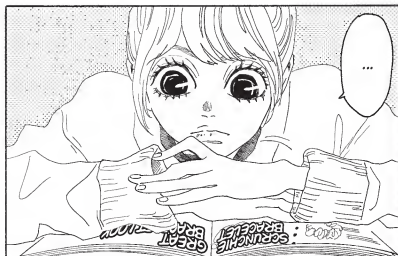


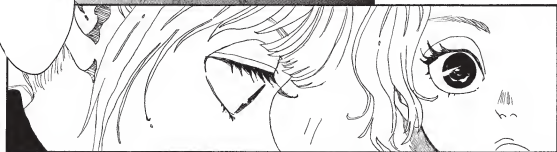
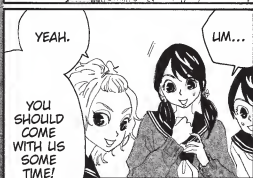
WHAT'S
THAT?

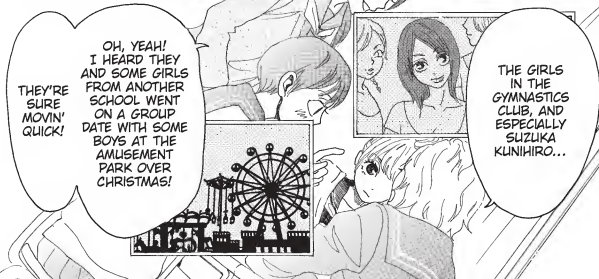
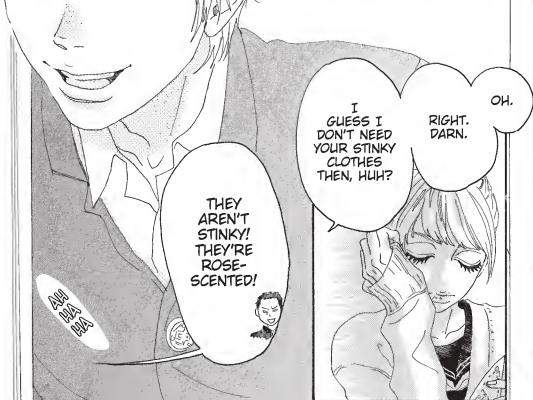
I WAS
JUST
SAYING
...



OH,
IT'S
NOTH-
ING.







RIGHT?

IT
AIN'T EVEN
BEEN FIVE
SECONDS
SINCE HE
BROKE UP
WITH YOU!

Makes me
mad!

YOU
DON'T THINK
KOU-CHAN
WENT, TOO,
DO YOU?

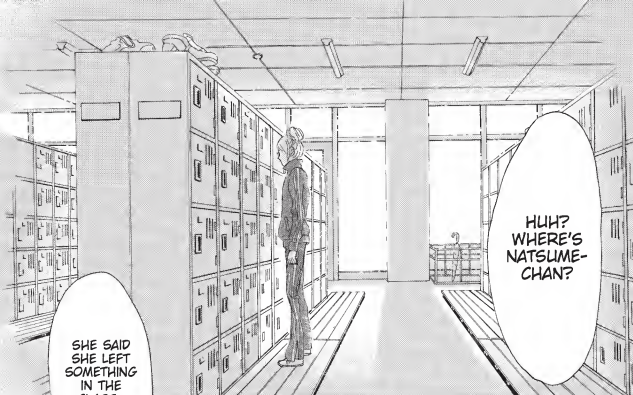
KOU-CHAN'S
GROUP FROM
CLASS A,
RIGHT?

AND BY
BOYS,
YOU
MEAN
...

HE ALWAYS
CLAIMED HE
DIDN'T LIKE
GIRLS OR
DATING THAT
MUCH, AT
LEAST...

I
WONDER
...

RATTLE



SHE SAID
SHE LEFT
SOMETHING
IN THE
CLASS-
ROOM.

HUH?
WHERE'S
NATSUME-
CHAN?

...BUT,
YOU
KNOW
...



WHAT?
WHY
SHOULD
I?

LIKE,
WITH THE
HASEGAWA-
KUN
STUFF?

DON'T
YOU
THINK
YOU
SHOULD
BACK
OFF A
SMIDGE?

WHY THE HECK
NOT?! LIKE, SURE,
NATSUME-CHAN
DOESN'T SEEM TO MIND
SO MUCH, BUT...

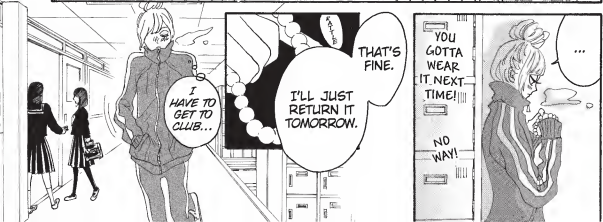
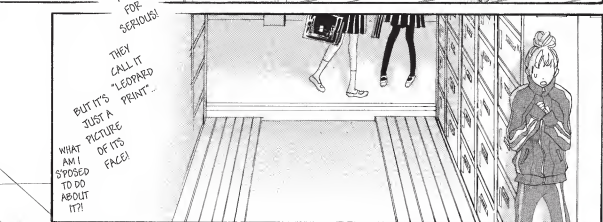
YOU CAN'T
DO THAT!

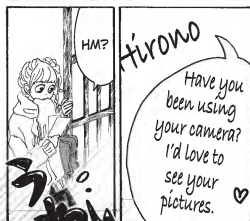
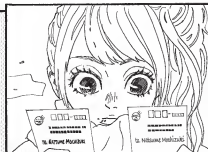


AN' SOMETIMES
WHEN YOU TRY
TO TALK TO
HER, SHE JUST
PLAIN DON'T PAY
ATTENTION...

HER
LAUGHTER
STILL FEELS
LIKE THERE'S
NOTHIN'
BEHIND IT.

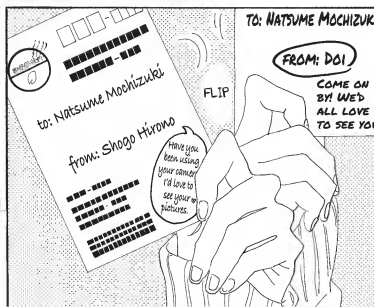
I
WOULDN'T
SAY THAT.





Hirowo

Have you been using your camera? I'd love to see your pictures. ♡



TO: NATSUME MOCHIZUKU

FROM: DOI

COME ON BY! WE'D ALL LOVE TO SEE YOU

FLIP

to: Natsume Mochizuki

from: Shogo Hirowo

Have you been using your camera? I'd love to see your pictures.

WAAAH!

WELL,
TO BE
HONEST
...

...WE
KEEP
GETTING
LETTERS
AND
PACKAGES
AND
CALLS...

IT'S
JACK!

うわ

WAAAH!

HE-!
HE-!!

If
we
just
cook
him...

AWW...
DO YOU WANT
TO GO AHEAD
AND EAT HIM,
THEN, RYUTA?

HE'S
DEAD?

死 DEAD ーん...

WAAAAH!
DON'T
EAT HIM!

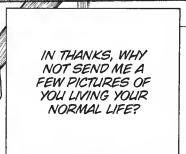
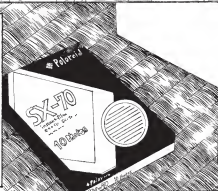
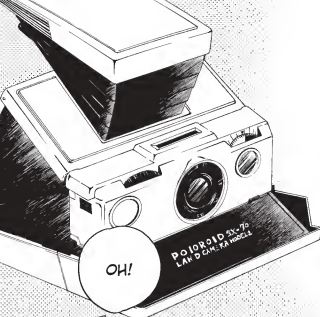
...FROM
DOI-SAN AND
HIRONO-SAN
AND OTHER
INDUSTRY
PEOPLE.

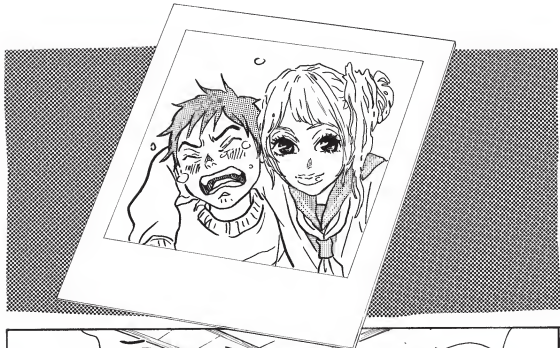
DO YOU
KNOW
WHAT
THIS IS
ABOUT?

LOOK
AT
THIS.

HEY,
MOM...

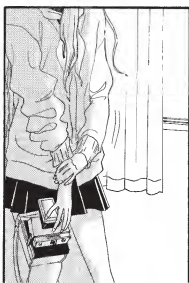
WAAAH

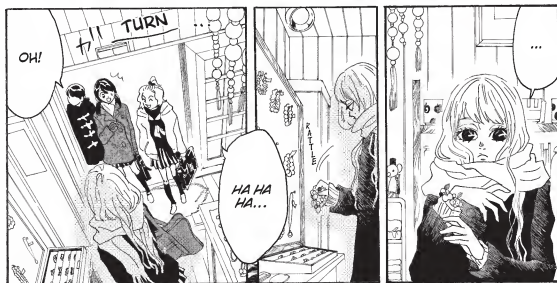
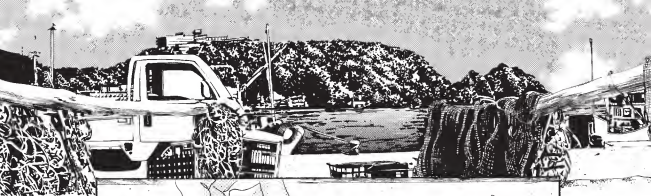


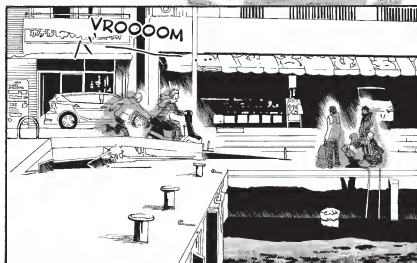
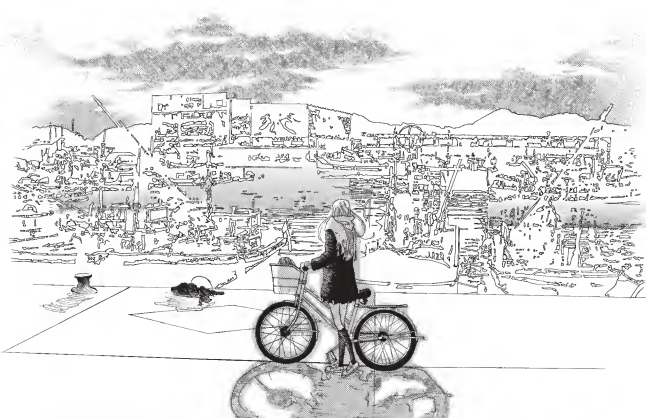


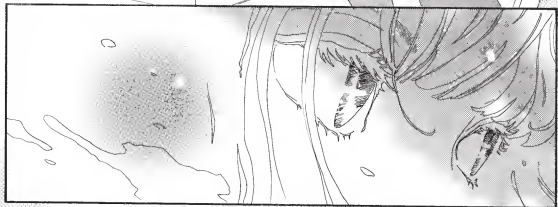
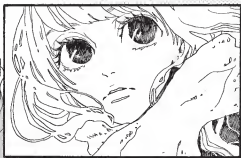


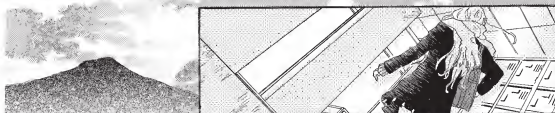
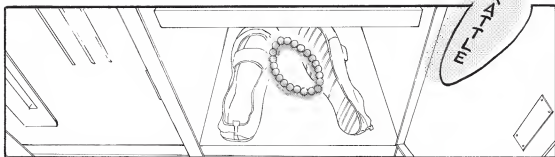
KOU!



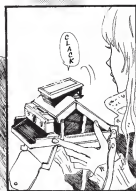
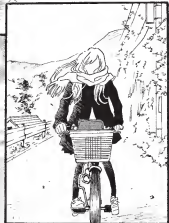








==// ✦ ... WHOOSH



...



IF I'M
GOING TO
SHOOT THE
SUNSET...

...WAIT.



DEFINITELY
...

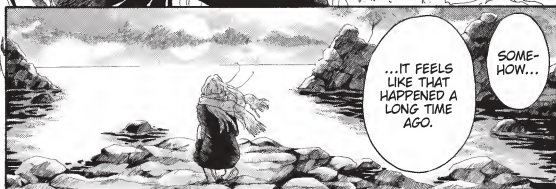
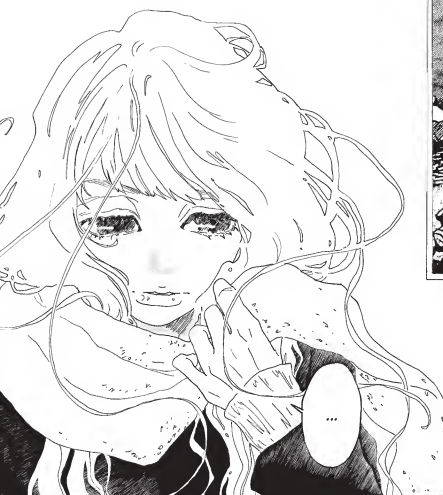


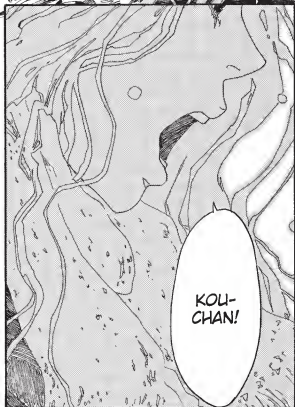
...THIS
PLACE
IS...

...THE
WAY TO
GO!

"YEP."

"IT'S
BEAUTIFUL."

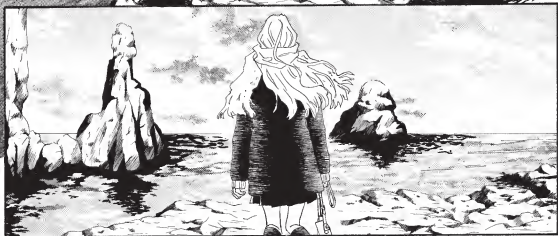






KOU-
CHAN!

SPLASH



HEH.



OF
COURSE
HE'S NOT
HERE.



I
ALREADY
GAVE HIM
BACK...

...THE
LAST
THING
LINKING
US.

HEH
HEH...

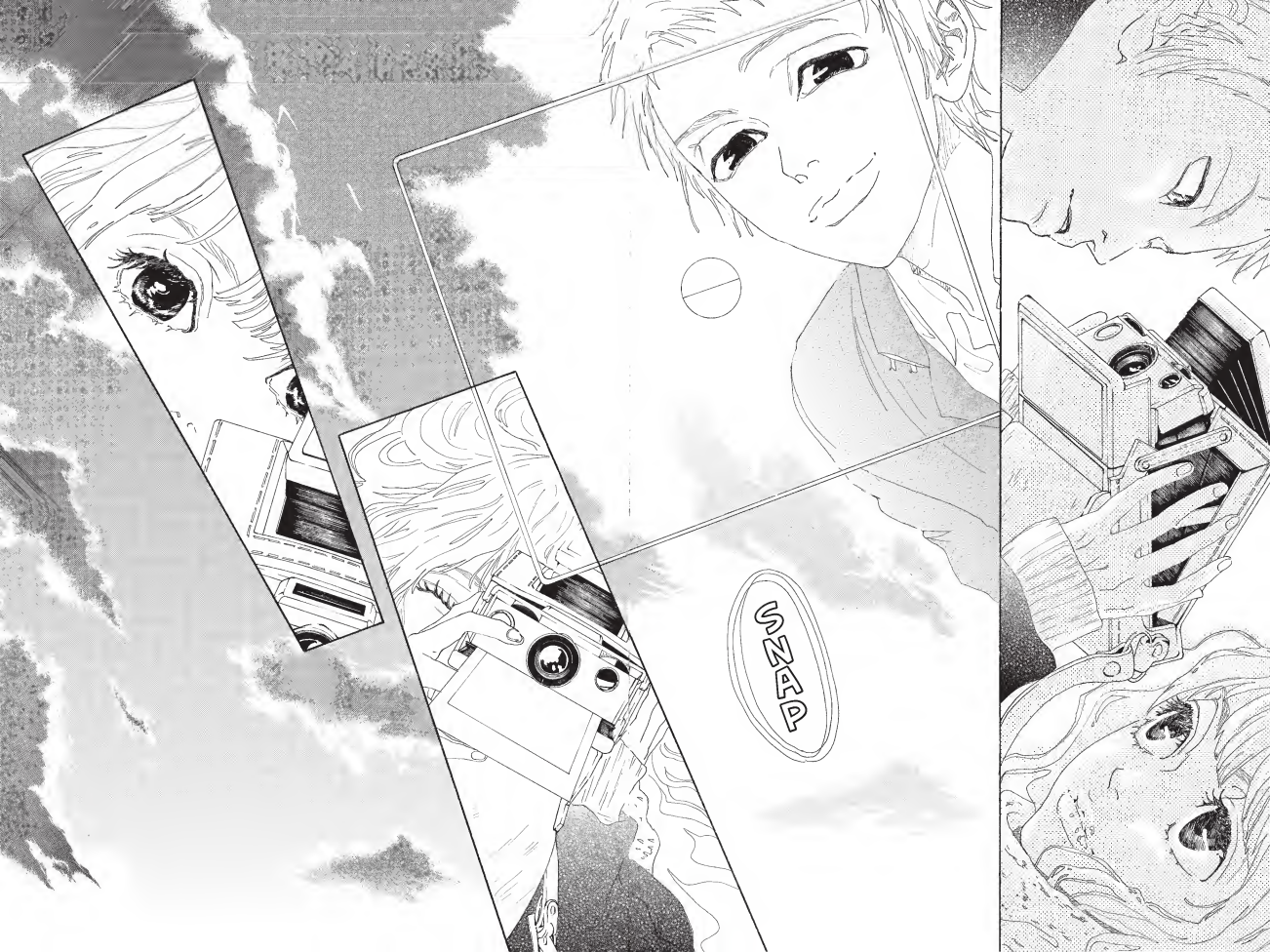
I SHOULD
HAVE
BOUGHT
THAT
BRACELET.

YEAH.

S
H
U
S
H
H







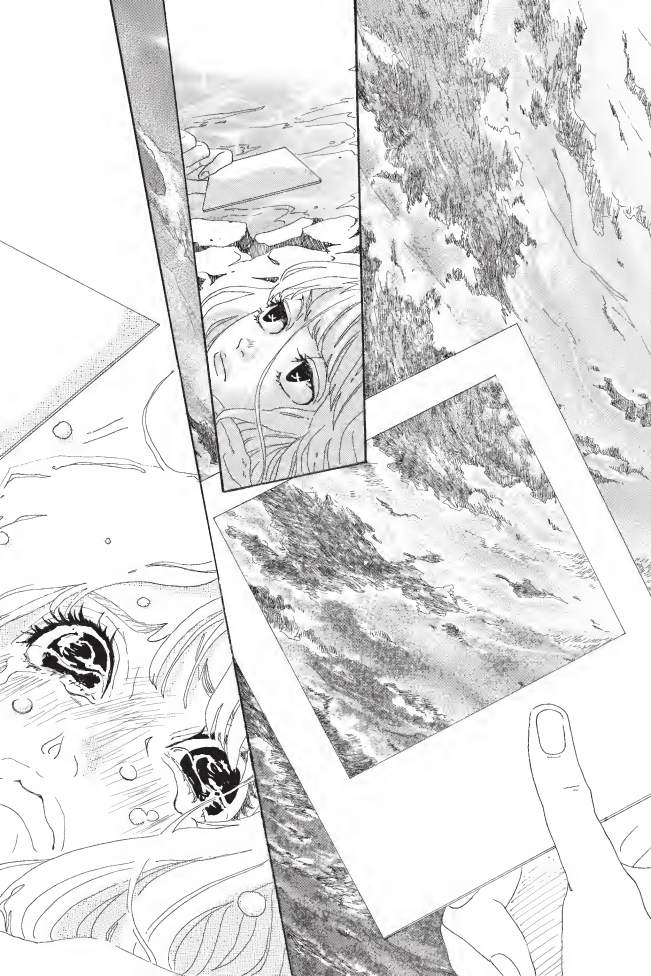
KOU-
CHAN...

...IS...

...GONE.

HEH
HEH...

...



...WON'T
CHANGE
...

CRYING
LIKE
THIS...

...YOU
DUMMY!

R
R
G
H
...



W
A
A
A
H
...

WAH
...
...AHH
...

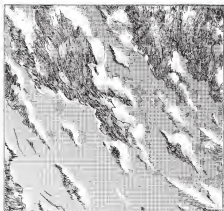
*I'M
LONELY!*

*I'M LONELY!
I'M LONELY!
I'M LONELY!!*



...IS
THIS...

ALL
THAT'S
LEFT
INSIDE
ME...



...EMPTY
LANDSCAPE.

Drowning
Love





19

**The Girl from
Hinemosu Inn**





IT'S ALL
I CAN
DO JUST
TO KEEP
STANDING
AND NOT
LET IT
BLOW ME
OVER.

THE
WIND
BLOWS
RIGHT
BY
ME...

I NEVER
THOUGHT
TO TRY
ANYTHING
ELSE.

WHOOOOOSH

CHEEEP

OH!

HEY,
THAT'S
RIGHT!

CH
CH
CH
CH
CH

CH
CH
CH
CH
CH

IT'S
FLAVORED
WITH
SEAWEED!

YOU KNOW
HOW THE ICED TEA
AT KANA-CHAN'S
PLACE ALWAYS
TASTES SO KOOKY?
WELL, I FIGURED
IT OUT!

AIN'T
IT?!

THE
AFTER-
TASTE IS
SEAWEED
FOR SURE!

YER
RIGHT!

BWA
HA
HA

I'VE
ALWAYS...

I
PRETEND
NOT TO
NOTICE,
BUT...

I
NOTICE.

...BEEN
THE BUTT
OF JOKES
AND
THINGS.

...THAN I
ENJOY THE
COMPANY
OF MY
"FRIENDS."

TO BE HONEST,
I ENJOY READING
MAGAZINES WAY
MORE...

I COULD LOSE
MYSELF IN THEM
ALL DAY WITHOUT
GETTIN' BORED.

FASHION
MAGAZINES
ARE JUST SO
GLAMOROUS...



...I DIDN'T
HAVE A CLUE
HOW TO USE
'EM.

BUT EVEN THOUGH I
KEPT BUYIN' ALL THESE
THINGS THAT REMINDED
ME OF THAT DREAMLIKE
WORLD...

OH,
HEY!
DID YOU
HEAR...

...THEY'D
JUST
MAKE FUN
OF ME.
EVEN
IF I TRIED
...

OH!
AND
HE HAS
A GIRL
OUR
AGE,
RIGHT?

THE HEIR
TO THE
HINEMOSU
INN CAME
BACK.

...HUH?

NATSUME-
CHAN FROM
HINEMOSU
INN IS
HERE!

A
TOKYO
GIRL
...

KANA!

UM...

HELLO!

YOU'RE
NATSUME-
CHAN
FROM
PLUM
MAGAZINE
?!

SUPER CATALOG INCLUDED!

FREE LOVELY GIRL!
LOVELY
BLEEP!

9
SEPTEMBER
#42

THIS FALL
KEY PHRASE IS "SEXY OLDER GIRL!"

THIS YEAR, FIN
PERFECT

MOCHI-
ZUKI, 88
POINTS.

AND
SHE'S
SMART,
TOO!

Way
smarter
than
me.

AND
SHE
HAS
GREAT
RE-
FLEXES
!

WELL,
MORE LIKE
SHE HATES
TO LOSE.

SHE'S
ALREADY
MADE FRIENDS
WITH EVERY-
BODY...!

I'M
SURE
SHE'S
FORGOT-
TEN ALL
ABOUT
...

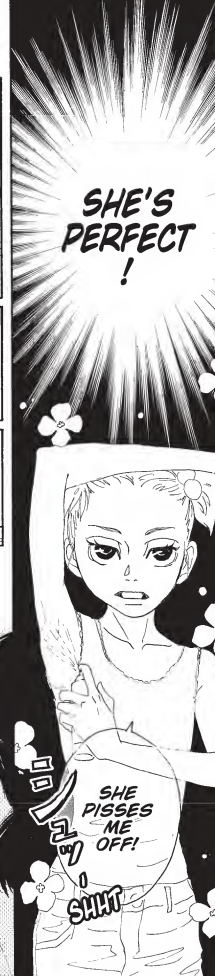
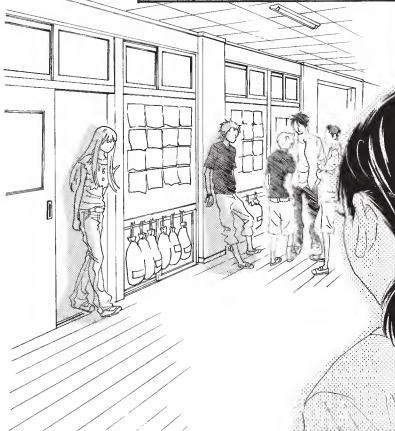
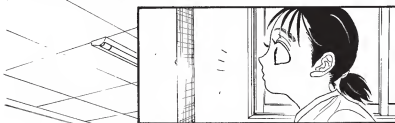
HEY,
KANA-CHAN!
WHICH DO
YOU LIKE
MORE?

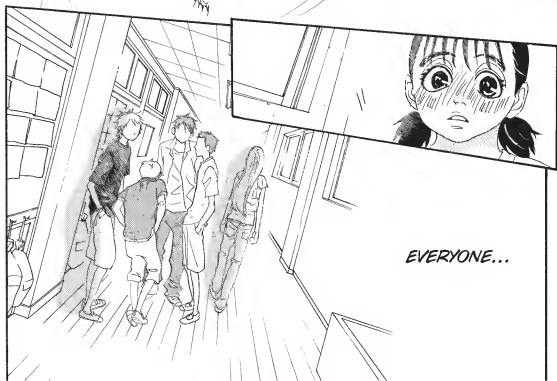
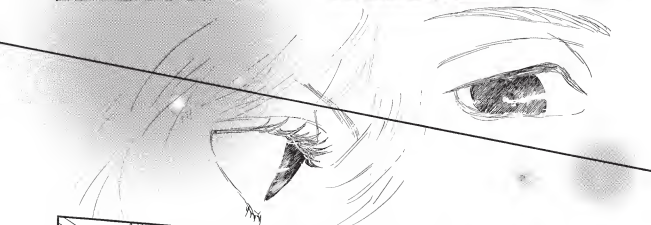
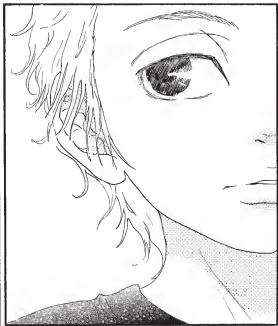
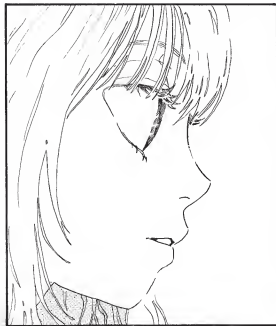
**BEAUTIFUL
PEOPLE HAVE
BEAUTIFUL
HEARTS,
DON'T
THEY?!**

THE REAL
NATSUME-
CHAN WHO
STOOD
BEFORE ME
WAS EVEN
CLUTIER THAN
THE ONE IN
MAGAZINES.

IT'S LIKE,
SHE'S A
COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT
CREATURE
MADE FROM
COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT
MATERIALS
THAN ME.

She's
cute
even
when
she's
cleaning!





EVERYONE...

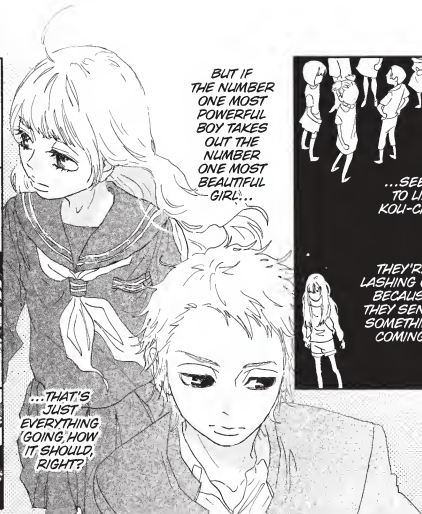


KIND OF A ...

"SERVES YOU RIGHT!" "SITUATION, HUH."

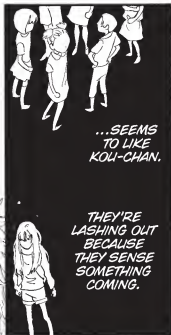
YOU THINK THOSE TWO ARE DATING?

HUH?



...THAT'S JUST EVERYTHING GOING, HOW IT SHOULD, RIGHT?

BUT IF THE NUMBER ONE MOST POWERFUL BOY TAKES OUT THE NUMBER ONE MOST BEAUTIFUL GIRL...



...SEEMS TO LIKE KOU-CHAN.

THEY'RE LASHING OUT BECAUSE THEY SENSE SOMETHING COMING.



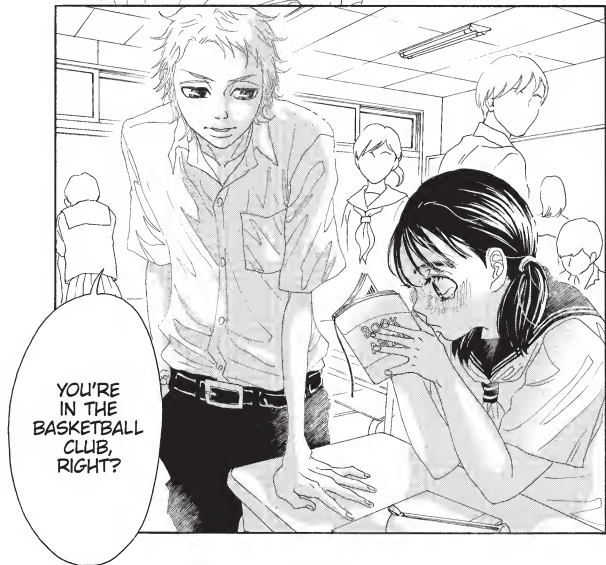
NOBODY CAN MATCH UP TO NATSUME-CHAN.

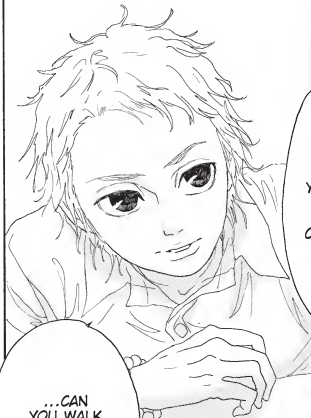


AH! JUMP

IS THERE A PROBLEM?

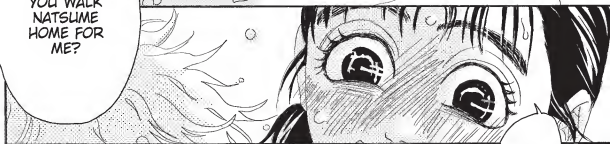
DOES SHE EVEN KNOW HOW MUCH SHE'S OVER-REACHING ?





WHEN
YOU'RE
DONE
WITH
CLUB...

...CAN
YOU WALK
NATSUME
HOME FOR
ME?



ARE
THEY
THAT
CLOSE?

HER
FIRST
NAME
...

UH...

**WHOA!
WHOA!!**

I'LL DO
THAT.

S—

SURE.



...THERE
AIN'T NO
WAY HE'D
BE MY
PARTNER.

BUT...

ARE YOU IN
LOVE WITH
KOLI-CHAN?

KOLI-CHAN
ASKED
ME FOR A
FAVOR!

I KNOW THIS.

SO...

...
NATSUME-
CHAN!

...LIKE
YOU...

HE'S MORE
WELL-SUITED
TO SOME-
ONE WHO
GLOWS...

I
KNOW
MY
PLACE,
AND...

I
KNOW
IT
WELL.

IT'S
TRUE!

JUST...

...DON'T
BE SAD,
NATSUME-
CHAN.

...SEEN' THE
TWO OF YOU
TOGETHER
MAKES MY
HEART RACE!

YOU
REALLY
MAKE
MY
HEART
RACE.



HUH...?

OH.

WOW...

THEY'RE
PERFECT
...

...THEIR
STRONGEST
SUPPORTER.

I WANT
TO BE...

A birthday
party for
Natsume-
chan?

Huh?

I'LL INVITE
KOU-CHAN
TOO!

YEAH!
LET'S DO
IT AS A
SURPRISE.

LET'S ALL
DRESS
UP,
AND...

山の喫茶こけもも
THE MOUNTAIN BERRY CAFE

I'M
WELL
AWARE
OF
THAT.

THIS
IS WHY
PEOPLE
CALL ME
"ANNOY-
ING," I
BET...

I'M
SO
PATHE-
TIC.

WHY
DO I
ALWAYS
GOTTA
CRY LIKE
THAT...

CLINK CLINK
AAH...



OH!

HEY,
SIS!

HELLO!

KOLI-
CHAN
DIDN'T
EVEN
END UP
COMING.



AW,
HA
HA
HERE
ARE SOME
HOSTESS
GIFTS

...



AW, YOU
KNOW
YOU JUST
CAME FOR
THE HOT
SPRINGS!

WE
WERE ON
THE WAY
TO MOM'S
PLACE
WHEN WE
THOUGHT
WE'D
STOP BY.



KANA!

OH!



I
WISH I
GOT TO
SEE HER
...

NATSUME
MOCHIZUKI
GOES
TO YOUR
SCHOOL,
RIGHT?



OUR LITTLE
KANA WANTS
TO BE JUST
LIKE HER!
SHE'S DIETING
AND GROWING
OUT HER HAIR
AND WORRYING
OVER FASHION
AND ALL THAT!



OH?

OH? SHE
WAS JUST
HERE.

SO SHE
REALLY IS
FAMOUS!



...I'M
REALLY NOT
GOOD WITH
HER...

ARE
YOU
KIDDING
ME?



WHAT'S
THIS?

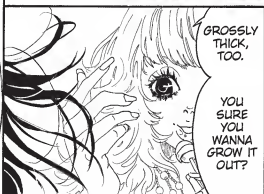
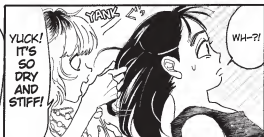
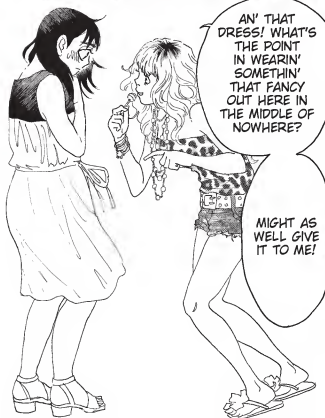
I DIDN'T
EXPECT
YOU TO
DROP
BY SO
SUDDENLY.

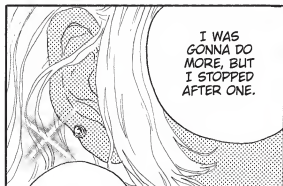


I'M... NOT
REALLY
GOOD
WITH MY
COUSIN.
SHE'S TWO
YEARS
OLDER,
AND...

YOU
LOOK SO
GROWN
UP, JURI-
CHAN!

EHE.





I WAS
GONNA DO
MORE, BUT
I STOPPED
AFTER ONE.



I
HEARD IF
YOU GET
AN ODD
NUMBER OF
PIERCINGS,
IT'LL CHANGE
YOUR
DESTINY...

AIN'T
THAT
JUST
SPOOKY?

YOUR
EYELINER IS
WAY TOO
THICK.
*And that hairstyle
is straight out of
The Lion King.*

W—
WELL,
WHAT
ABOUT
YOU?



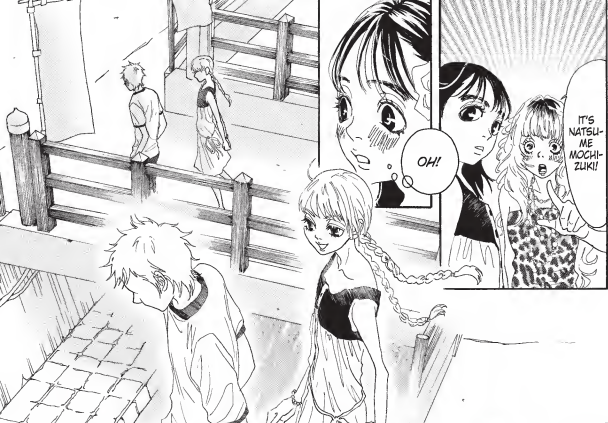
...IS
THAT
AN EAR-
RING?!

HEH.
I DONE
GOT
PIERCED.



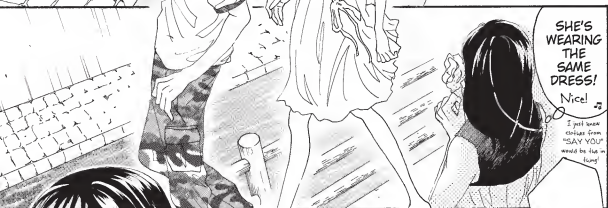
OH MY
GAWD!

DESTINY
...?



OH!

IT'S
NATSU-
ME
MOCHI-
ZUKI!



SHE'S
WEARING
THE
SAME
DRESS!

Nice!

I just knew
clothes from
"SAY YOUR
WORLD BY THE
LIPS!"



BWA
HA
HA!

HAW
HAW
HAW

NO
REASON
TO
LAUGH
AT ME.

NATSUME-
CHAN IS A
MODEL, YA
KNOW?

...WELL,
AN' SO
WHAT?

...
HAW
HAW
HAW

YOU'RE
MILES
APART!

BUT BE
SERIOUS!

COME
ON!

WANTIN'
TO BE LIKE
HER IS ONE
THING...

...
I
GET
IT.



NATSUME-
CHAN IS MY
COMPLETE
OPPOSITE
AND ALSO
MY IDOL...



EVERYTHIN'
...

...I'D
EVER
WANT.

SHE'S
BEAUTIFUL
AND PERFECT
AND HAS
EVERYTHIN' I
COULD EVER
WANT.



FLIP

I KNOW
HOW
UNFAIR
LIFE
CAN
BE.

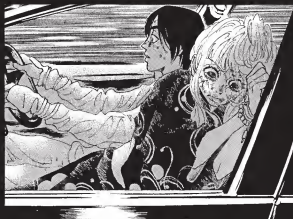
I
UNDER-
STAND
...

...MY
PLACE
IN
SOCIETY.

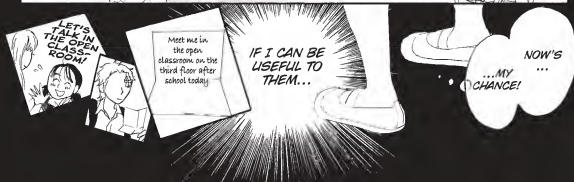
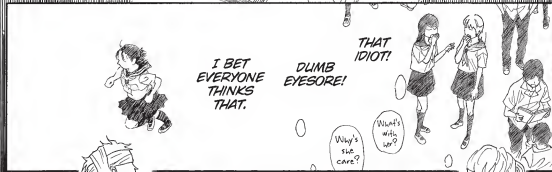


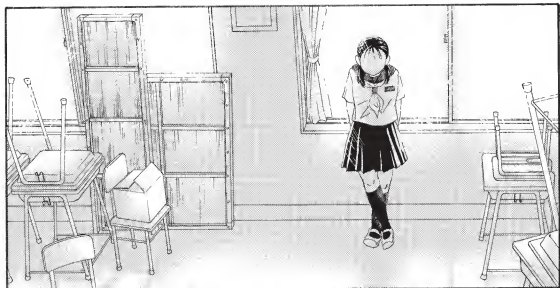
CHANGING
DESTINY,
HUH...

SURE
WOULD MAKE
THINGS EASY IF
SOMETHIN' AS
SIMPLE AS THIS
COULD DO ALL
THAT...



IF
YOU CAN
CHANGE
IT, IT AIN'T
DESTINY.





"OH!"

"...WHAT?"



"KANA-
CHAN..."

"HUH?"

"I'LL BE
GOIN'
NOW."



THOSE
TWO'RE
JUST SO
PICTURESQUE!

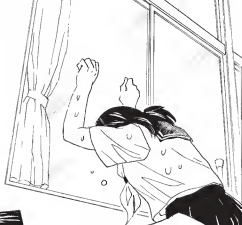
I GUESS
NATSUME-CHAN'S
ACTUALLY THE
TALLER ONE.
AIN'T SHE.

THEY'RE
SO WONDER-
FUL
...



EMBRACE





...YEAH,
NO
GOOD
AT ALL.
IT'S
DOWN-
RIGHT
SILLY!

IF IT
WERE
ANY-
BODY
ELSE...



EVEN IN MY
IMAGINATION,
A LOVE SCENE
IS JUST TOO
MUCH!

NO! I
CAN'T!

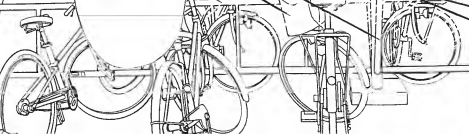


AND
IF IT
WERE
ME...



NATSUME-
CHAN!

WHY
DON'T
YOU
DATE
HIM?





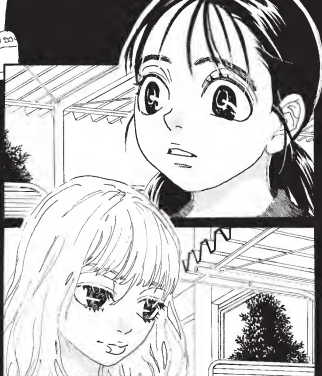
NATSUME-
CHAN ONLY
SAID THAT
BECAUSE
SHE
KNOWS
THAT, TOO.

I ENVY
YOUR
ABILITY
...

...TO
TRUST
IN HIM!

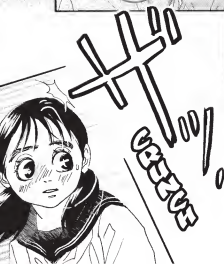
THAT'S...

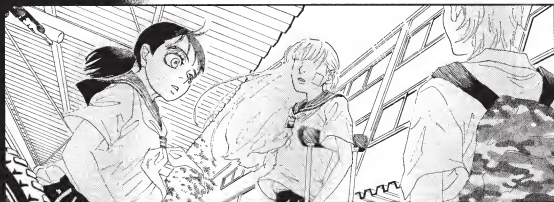
...NOT
SOME-
THIN' I
COULD
EVER DO.



...HAS
KOU-CHAN
EVER DONE
ANYTHING
TO HELP
ME!

LET ME
TELL
YOU! NOT
ONCE...





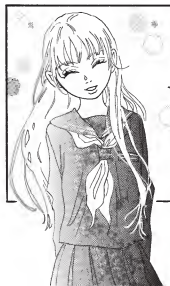
OH, NO...

LOOKS LIKE
THOSE TWO
BROKE UP.

...AND
IT'S MY
FAULT.



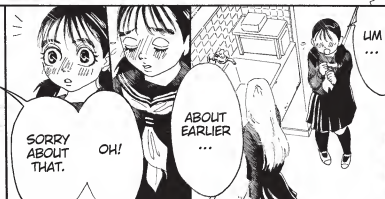
NATSLUME-
CHAN...

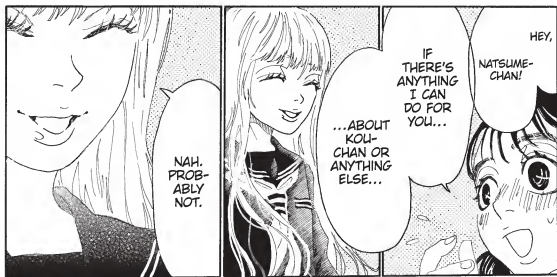


SORRY
ABOUT
THAT.

OH!

ABOUT
EARLIER
...





WHAT SHE
SAID THEN
WAS JUST
PLAIN
WRONG!

...HAS
KOLI-CHAN
EVER
DONE
ANYTHING
TO HELP
ME!

LET
ME TELL
YOU!
NOT
ONCE
...

...THAT'S
IT.



...TO SAVE
HER?

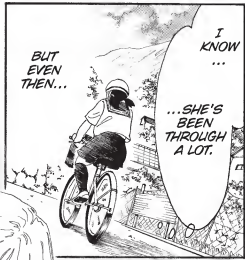
...BRAVE
ALL THOSE
TERRIBLE
INJURIES
...

...DIDN'T
KOLI-
CHAN...

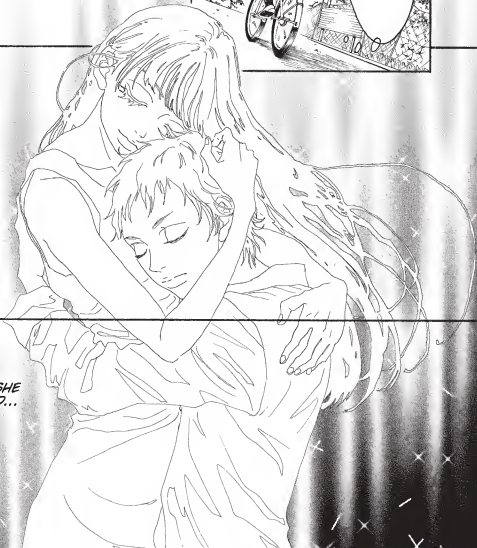
BUT
EVEN
THEN...

I
KNOW
...

...SHE'S
BEEN
THROUGH
A LOT.

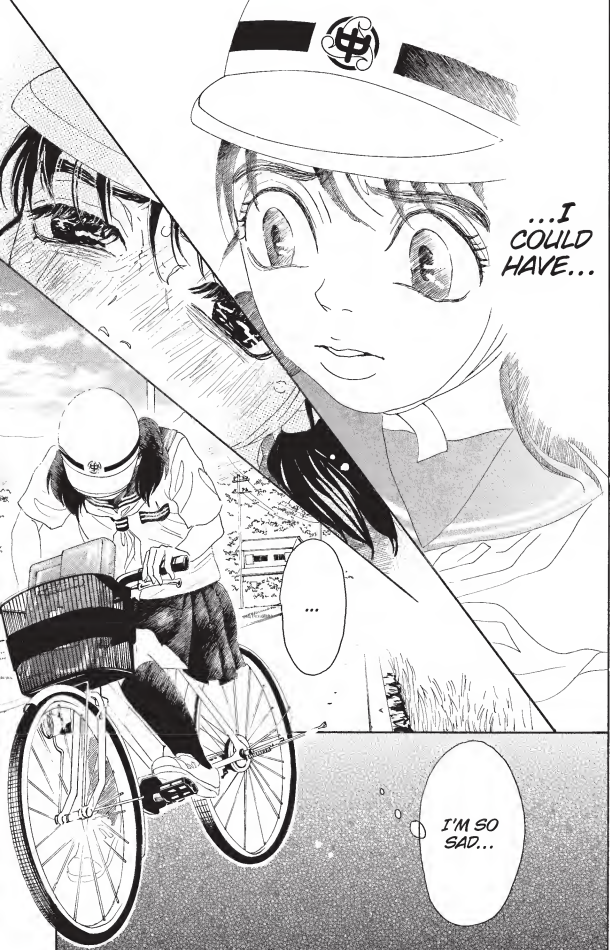


SHE SHOULD
BE HAPPY!
SHE SHOULD
THANK HIM!
AND WISH
HIM A SPEEDY
RECOVERY!



...I'M
SURE
NATSUME-
CHAN
COULD
HAVE...

IF SHE
HAD...



...I
COULD
HAVE...

...

I'M SO
SAD...



...MORE
THAN
I DID
WHEN
I WAS
DIETIN'.

SHE'S
RIGHT
...



HUH?

YOU'VE
BEEN
LOSIN' A
LOT OF
WEIGHT
LATELY!



COME
NOW!

YOU'VE
GOT TO
CLEAN
YOUR
PLATE!

I'M SO
SAD...

THE MOUNTAIN
BERRY CAFE



DON'T LET
YOURSELVES
GET TOO
CARELESS,
NOW.

WINTER
BREAK
BEGINS TO-
MORROW...

AHEM!



SOME
THIRD-YEARS
FROM SHINKAI
GIRLS' ARE
COMING!

CAN YOU
BELIEVE
IT?



YOU WERE
GOING TO SPEND
YOUR CHRISTMAS
ALONE ANYWAY,
SO YOU'RE
FREE, RIGHT?

YOU'VE
GOTTA
COME
TO THE
AMUSE-
MENT
PARK
WITH
US!

あ
は
は
は
は



PERFECT

IT'S MY PERFUME.

...COULD YOU TELL?

I ONLY PUT A LITTLE ON...

GLOSSY



HUH?

...YOU SMELL REALLY NICE.

Y'KNOW ...



WE SURVEYED 100 BOYS!
THIS MAKEUP STYLE
THIS KIND OF SCENT

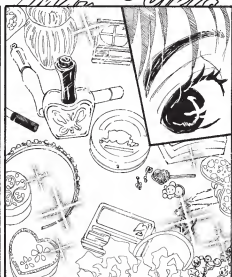
ATTRACTIVE SEX!

MAKES GIRLS

ALL NOT MIDDLE SCHOOL BOYS



YOU KNOW...



THEY'RE BOUND TO MAKE FUN OF ME EITHER WAY.

...THERE'S NO REAL REASON NOT TO.

...DAZZLING
AND WON-
DERFUL...

YOU TWO
REALLY
WERE...

...BEFORE
NOW.



IN
TRUTH SERIOUSLY, BUT,
...

...BELIEVE
IT OR
NOT...



KANA.



SURE.

"WHY
DON'T
YOU
DATE
HIM?"



...I'M
GLAD...

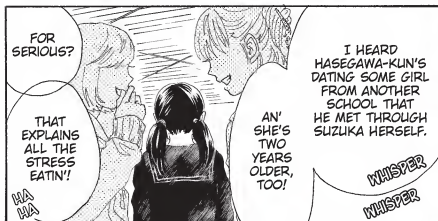
...IT
DIED.





DON'T GO
TOO CRAZY,
NOW.

AHEM...
SPRING
BREAK BEGINS
TOMORROW.



FOR
SERIOUS?

THAT
EXPLAINS
ALL THE
STRESS
EATIN'!

HA
HA

AN'
SHE'S
TWO
YEARS
OLDER,
TOO!

I HEARD
HASEGAWA-KUN'S
DATING SOME GIRL
FROM ANOTHER
SCHOOL THAT
HE MET THROUGH
SUZUKA HERSELF.

WHISPER

WHISPER



...THAN
SOMEONE
LIKE
SUZUKA,
ANYWAY.

I'D
RATHER
HE DATE
SOMEONE
I DON'T
KNOW...



...WOW.

MY
HAIR'S
GOTTEN
PRETTY
LONG.



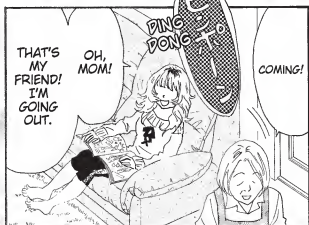
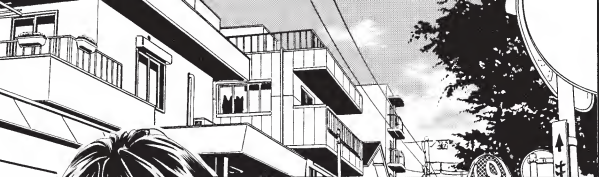
I
WONDER IF
NATSLIME-
CHAN
KNOWS...

WE
HAVEN'T
BEEN
TALKING
MUCH
LATELY...



SEEMS
PRETTY AP-
PROPRIATE
FOR HIM.

AND
SOMEONE
OLDER THAN
HIM, TOO?



WHAT
THE—?!



...AN' THIS ONE'S FROM ME.

THIS ONE'S FROM MY MOM ...

RUSTLE!

CONGRATS ON GETTIN' INTO HIGH SCHOOL VIA ESCALATOR.*

*AN ESCALATOR SCHOOL DOESN'T HAVE ENTRANCE EXAMS IF THE APPLICANT IS FROM AN AFFILIATED SCHOOL. IT'S A BACKHANDED COMPLIMENT.



I AIN'T GOT A GOOD SALON NEAR ME, SO I HAD TO COME OUT HERE.

WHAT THE HECK?!

カチャカチャ

KANA?!



YOU SAID YOU WANTED IT, DIDN'TCHA?



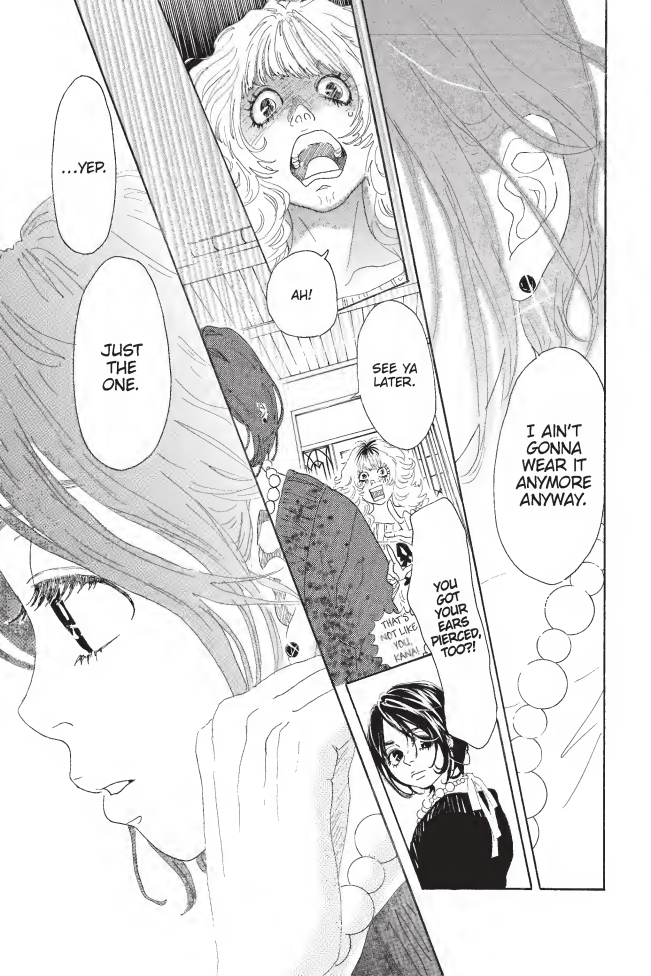
I guess I'll open them...

THANKS ...?

THIS DRESS...

HUH?

What the heck?



...YEP.

JUST
THE
ONE.

AH!

SEE YA
LATER.

I AIN'T
GONNA
WEAR IT
ANYMORE
ANYWAY.

YOU
GOT
YOUR
EARS
PIERCED,
TOO?!

THAT'S
NOT LIKE
YOU,
KANAKO



OH!

HI.

NOD



NAH ...

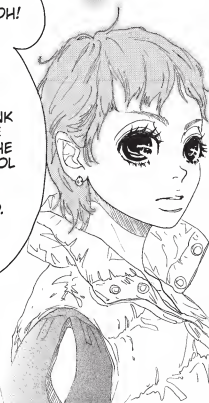
SHE
MAY NOT
LOOK LIKE
IT, BUT
THAT'S MY
COUSIN.
I think.

WHO
WAS
THAT?
A
FRIEND
FROM
YOUR
HOME-
TOWN?

SHE
HANGING
WITH US
TODAY?

OH!

NOW
THAT I THINK
OF IT, SHE
GOES TO THE
SAME SCHOOL
AS YOUR
YOUNGER
BOYFRIEND.



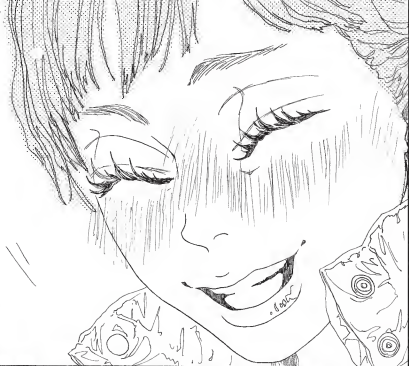
HEY!

JURI!



...





WE MET UP
YESTERDAY
AFTER A
LONG TIME
APART!



HM?

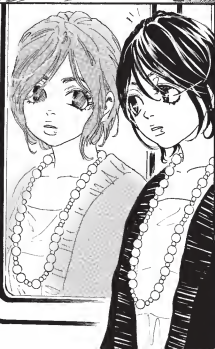
WHAT?

EH
HE
HE
...



THANK
HE'S
TWO YEARS
YOUNGER!
JUST A
LITTLE KID!

WHAT'RE
YOU
GRINNIN'
ABOUT
OVER
THERE,
DUMMY?

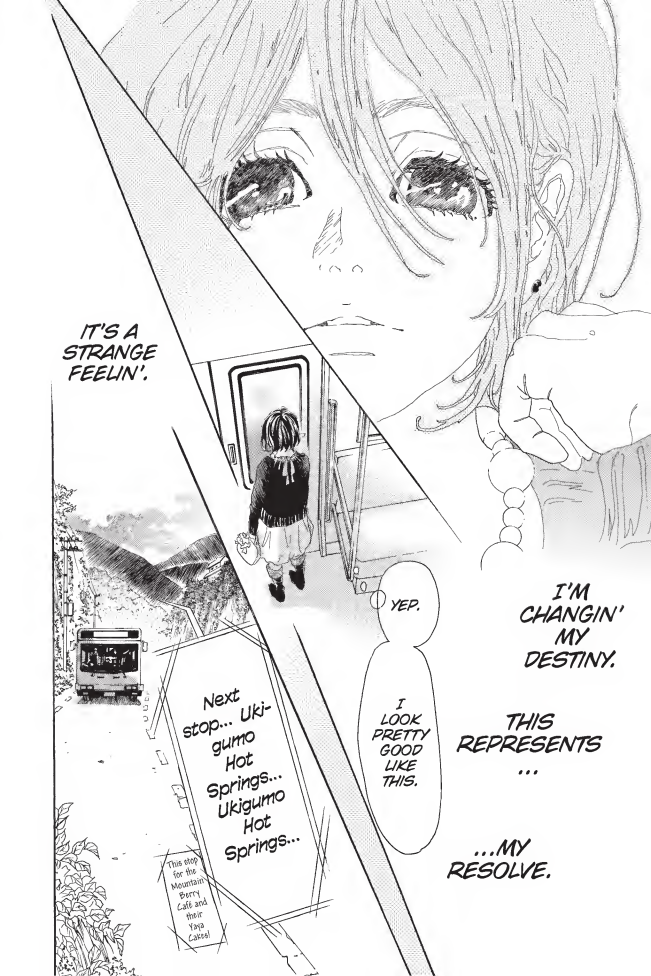


I
SHOULDN'T
IMAGINE
MYSELF
WITH HIM
ANYMORE.



IT'D
BE
BEST
IF KOU-
CHAN'S
GIRL-
FRIEND
...

...WAS
SOMEONE
NICE LIKE
THAT GIRL
JUST NOW.



*IT'S A
STRANGE
FEELIN'.*

YEP.

*I'M
CHANGIN'
MY
DESTINY.*

*THIS
REPRESENTS
...*

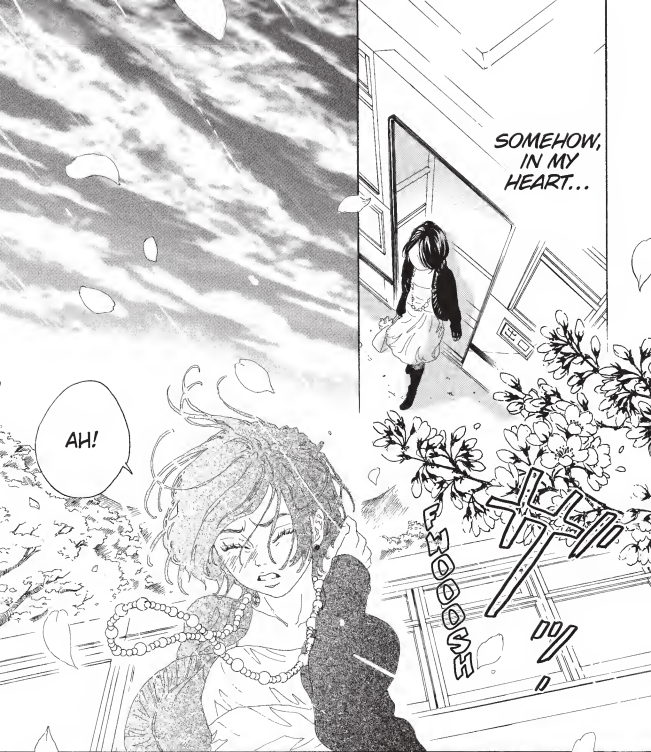
*...MY
RESOLVE.*

*I
LOOK
PRETTY
GOOD
LIKE
THIS.*

*Next
stop... Uki-
gumo
Hot
Springs...
Ukigumo
Hot
Springs...*

*This stop
for the
Mountain
Berry
Cafe and
their
Yaya
Cafe!*







HEH.

THAT
TICKLES
A BIT.

WE'RE
SECOND-
YEARS
NOW.

...ONCE
MORE.

...WILL
BE IN
THE
SAME
CLASS...

KOU-CHAN
AND I...

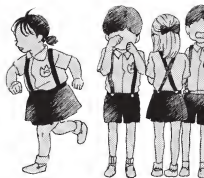


Drowning
Love



...I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
I WAS
THINKING.

BACK
THEN...



...NONE
OF THAT'S
CHANGED
A BIT.

20

The Girl
from the
Mountain
Berry
Café

EVEN NOW,
TO BE
FRANK...

...BY THE
FIRES
RAGING
WITHIN
HIM.

I WAS
ALWAYS
CHASIN'
AFTER
HIM...

...NO
MATTER
WHAT
HE DID, I
WOULDN'T
STOP.

IT WAS LIKE MY
BODY AND SOUL
WERE BEING
SWALLOWED
UP...



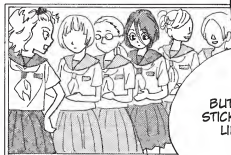
WOW,
YOU SURE
CHANGED
A LOT!

IS
THAT YOU,
KANA-CHAN?



HUH?

I WAS
LOOKING FOR
YOU EARLIER
DURING THE
OPENING
CEREMONY!



EARLIER, IN LINE

BUT YOU DIDN'T
STICK OUT OF THE
LINE AT ALL!

...AND ALL
THE OTHER
SECOND-YEAR
CLASSROOMS
ARE ON THE
SECOND
FLOOR.

AWW...
SECOND
TERM HAS
STARTED...

SHE'S
A LITTLE
UPSET
THAT I'M
THE ONLY
GIRL SHE
KNOWS,
THOUGH.

FOR
SECOND
YEAR,
HAYASE
AND I
ENDED
UP IN THE
SAME
CLASS.

LOOKS LIKE
YOU MET
YOUR WEIGHT
GOALS. THAT'S
GREAT!





OH!



...
IS THAT
REALLY
TRUE?

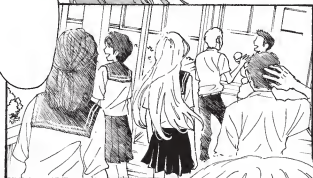


WHY
DO WE
HAVE TO BE
STUCK ON
THE THIRD
FLOOR ALL
ALONE?!

WE
DON'T GET
TO EVEN SEE
OUR FRIENDS
FROM OTHER
CLASSES
NOW!



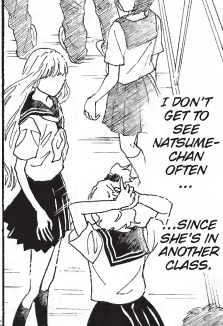
IT'S
NATSLIME-
CHAN!





I
SHOULD
SAY...

WELL
...



I DON'T
GET TO
SEE
NATSUME-
CHAN
OFTEN
...

...SINCE
SHE'S IN
ANOTHER
CLASS.



...IT'S
MORE
LIKE I'M
AVOIDING
HER.

SHE'S AS
BEAUTIFUL
AS EVER, BUT
NATSUME-
CHAN HAS
CHANGED.

...PASSIONLESS
EYES...

SHALLOW
SMILES,
SHALLOW
CONVERSA-
TIONS...



YOU
AIN'T
SAYIN'
HI?

HEY!

...WANT
TO SEE
HER.

I DON'T
REALLY...



I
FOUND
YOU,
KOICHIRO!

OH!

HEY-YO!

HOW
YOU
DOIN'?

WHAT'RE
YOU DOIN'
HERE?!

THE
HECK?!

HUH...?

Wahoo!

SURPRISED
YOU, DIDN'T
WE? SUZUKA
AN' THEM
LENT US
THEIR WINTER
UNIFORMS.

NOBODY
WILL
SUSPECT
A THING!

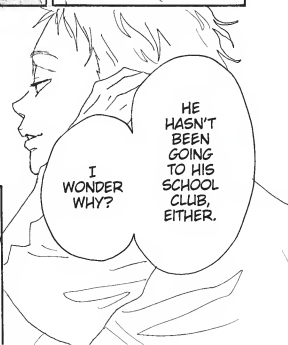
JU-
RI-CHAN
...

LIH-HUH. SO
THAT MUST BE
KOU-CHAN'S NEW
GIRLFRIEND.

YOU
LITTLE
PUNK!

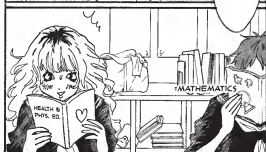
SINCE
WHEN
HAVE WE
HAD SOME
LION KING-
LOOKIN'
GIRL
HERE AT
KAITO
MIDDLE,
HUH?

LIKE
HELL
THEY
WON'T
!





HM?



TAKE
YOUR
SEATS.

ALL
RIGHT.



YOU
BACK-
COUNTRY
HACKS
JUST
DON'T
GET IT!

AND
JUST
WHO IS
THAT
**LION
KING**
REJECT,
THERE?



HUH?

PULL

YOU'VE
HAD YOUR
FUN. LET'S
DROP THE
MIDDLE
SCHOOLER
ACT AND
SPLIT.

CLATTER

...JURI-
CHAN.

SEE?
YOUR
COVER'S
BLOWN
ALREADY.





IF THEY'RE
ACTIN' LIKE
THAT NOW,
IT'S PRETTY
OBVIOUS WHAT
HAPPENED
BETWEEN
THEM...

AND SHE
BOLDLY
BARGED IN,
PRETENDIN'
TO BE IN
THIS CLASS
TO BE NEAR
HIM.

AFTER
ALL,
THOSE
TWO ARE
CLEARLY A
COUPLE.

...EVERY-
ONE'S IN
SHOCK.

OF
COURSE
THEY
ARE.

...OVER
SUMMER
BREAK.



I'M
HOME...

山の茶屋もも
THE MOUNTAIN BERRY CAFE

AH...

WELCOME
HOME!

I'M
IEHARA.
I GO TO
SHINKAI
GIRLS' WITH
JURI.

OH...

YES.

PARDON
THE
INTRUSION.
WE MET
ONCE
BEFORE,
REMEM-
BER?

WHICH
DO YOU
LIKE
MORE?

HEY,
KANA-
CHAN!

NICE TO
MEET YOU,
KANA-CHAN.

...OH.



DID THAT
KID REALLY
USED TO DATE
NATSUME
MOCHIZUKI?



HEY,
KANA.

I CAN
SEE
WHY
KOU-
CHAN
CHOSE
HER.

I'M JUST
SO WEAK TO
BEAUTIFUL
CITY GIRLS
BEING NICE
TO ME!

FLUSTERED
モギモギ



I WAS
THINKIN'
MAYBE THAT'S
WHY HE
DIDN'T WANT
US COMIN'
TO Y'ALL'S
SCHOOL.

AND
THEY'RE
STILL
CLOSE,
RIGHT?

HUH?



AND
DIDN'T YOU
SAY HE'D BEEN
COLD TO YOU
LATELY?



COME ON,
YOURSELF!
WE CAME
SUCH A
LONG WAY
TO SEE
HIM!

HEY,
COME ON,
JURI!

Just drop
it!

AND
ALL HE
SAID
WAS,
"YOU'D
BETTER
NOT DO
THAT
AGAIN!"

What a
jerk!



I'M JUST SAYIN',
IT WOULD'VE BEEN
FINE IF AUNTIE
COULDA DRIVEN
US TO THE TRAIN
STATION.

So
what
?!

HUH?

THAT'S
WHY I
SAID WE
SHOULD
COME
HERE!

The buses ain't
runnin' anymore!



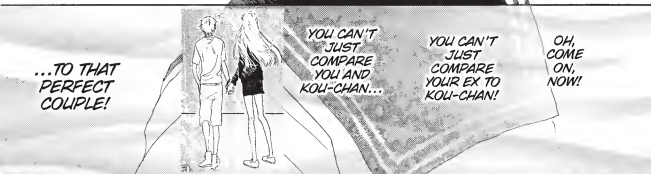
HUH...?

WE TALK
AND TEXT
ALL THE
TIME!

I'M
FRIENDS
WITH MY
EX, TOO!

I DON'T
CARE
ABOUT
HIS EX,
OKAY?

FORGET
IT!



...TO THAT
PERFECT
COUPLE!

YOU CAN'T
JUST
COMPARE
YOU AND
KOU-CHAN...

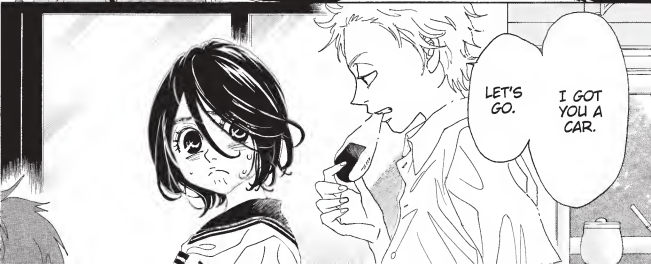
YOU CAN'T
JUST
COMPARE
YOUR EX TO
KOU-CHAN!

OH,
COME
ON,
NOW!



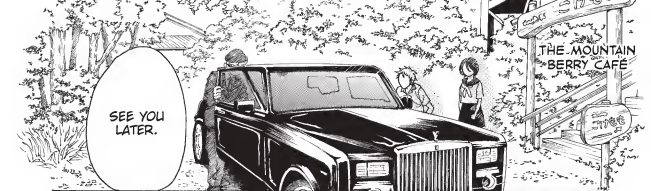
OH!

DON'T JUST
CASUALLY LUMP
YOURSELF IN
WITH HIM LIKE
THAT!

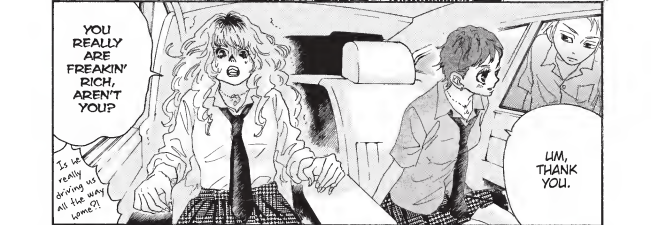


LET'S
GO.

I GOT
YOU A
CAR.



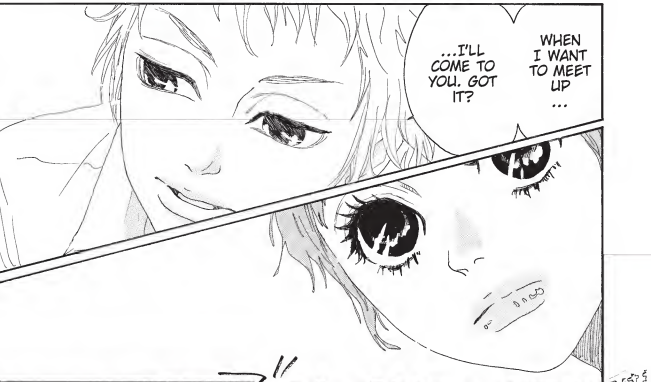
SEE YOU
LATER.



YOU
REALLY
ARE
FREAKIN'
RICH,
AREN'T
YOU?

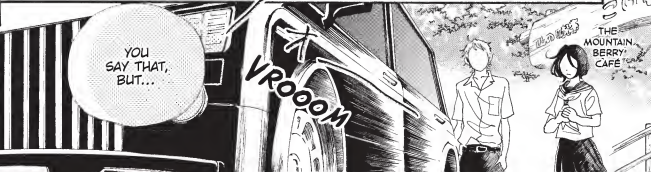
Is he
really
driving us
all the way
home?!

UM,
THANK
YOU.



...I'LL
COME TO
YOU. GOT
IT?

WHEN
I WANT
TO MEET
UP
...



YOU
SAY THAT,
BUT...

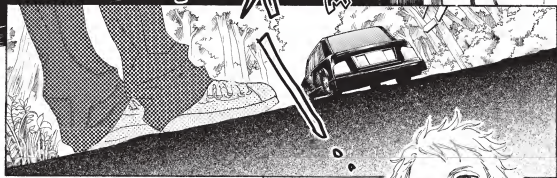
Vrooom

THE
MOUNTAIN
BERRY
CAFE



THAT'S
WHY WE
CAME
HERE
INSTEAD.

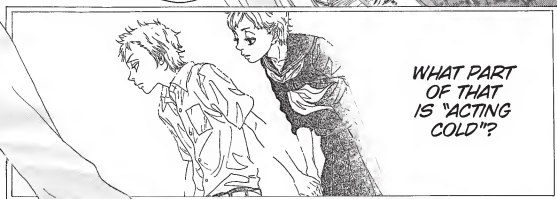
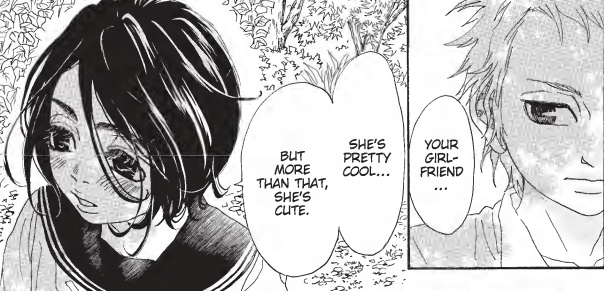
YOU'RE
NEVER
GOING
TO, ARE
YOU?



...
I
GUESS
YOU DO
KINDA
LOOK
ALIKE

SO THAT
LION KING
GIRL IS
YOUR COUSIN,
HUH?







YOU'RE
MAKIN'
FACES.

...HOW
VALLABLE
KOU-CHAN
IS?

DOES SHE
JUST NOT
REALIZE...



WHO'S
THAT?

...HUH?!

...HEY,
YOU KNOW
KURAMOTO-
SEMPAI?



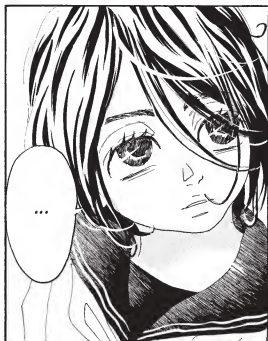
DO
WHAT?

PROLLY
'CAUSE
HE
WANTS
TO DO IT.

WHAT?

WHY?

HE WAS
SAYIN' HE
WANTED TO
TALK TO
YOU.



...



YOU.

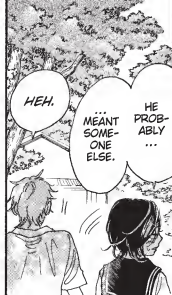


YOU
KNOW...

...YOU'VE
CHANGED
A LOT.



WHAT
THE
HECK
...



HEH.

...
MEANT
SOME-
ONE
ELSE.

HE
PROB-
ABLY
...



GIRLS...

...THEY'RE
ALWAYS
CHANGIN'
ON YOU.

MAYBE.

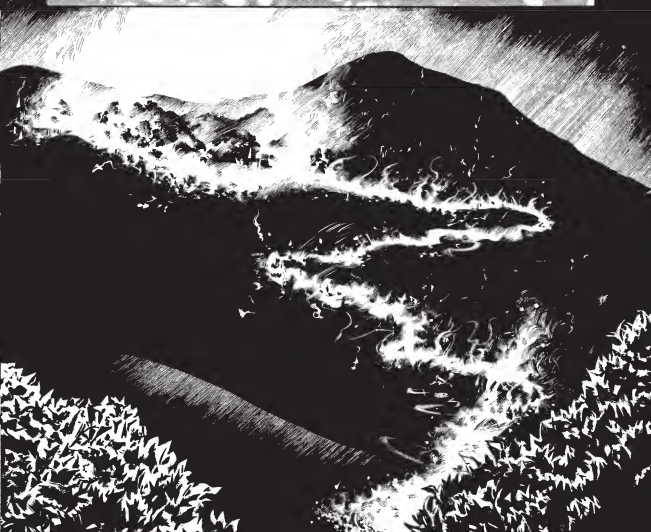
...EVEN
NATSUME-
CHAN DID.

AND
MAYBE...

MAYBE I DID,
MAYBE YOUR
GIRLFRIEND
DID.

...WOULD
SAY THE
SAME
THING
ABOUT YOU,
KOU-CHAN.

BUT
ALL OF
US...



NATSUME-
CHAN AND
KOU-CHAN
DIDN'T
COME...

...I
DIDN'T
THINK
THEY
WOULD.

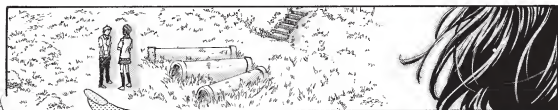
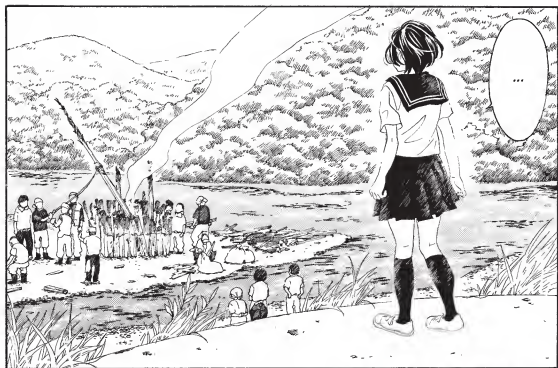


WHY'D
THEY
GET
CAUGHT
UP IN
THIS
FATE?

IT
ALWAYS
LOOKED
LIKE THEIR
PARTICI-
PATION
PLEASED
THE GODS,
THOUGH...

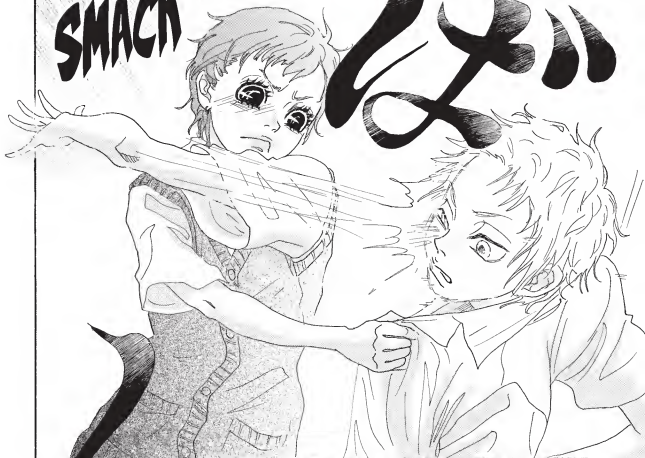


...HUH?



SMACK

はっ



は



WHAT'S
SO
FUNNY?!

HA HA
HA!

PFFT.

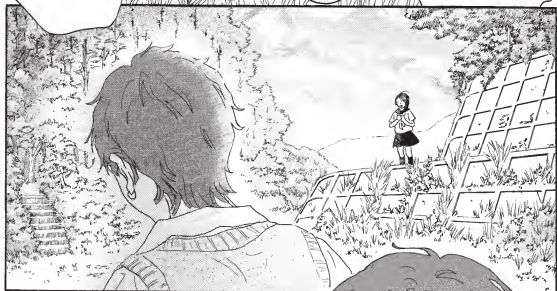


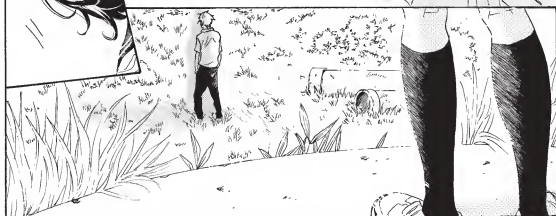
YOU
REALLY
PISS ME
OFF, YOU
KNOW?!

HA HA
...

I'M
NOT.

DON'T YOU
GO MAKIN' A
FOOL OUTTA
ME!





...LIKE
NATSUME-
CHAN'S
DOUBLE.

SHE
LOOKED...

...DID
KOU-CHAN
NOTICE IT,
TOO?

SHHHHH

1700
V
07

I
WONDER...

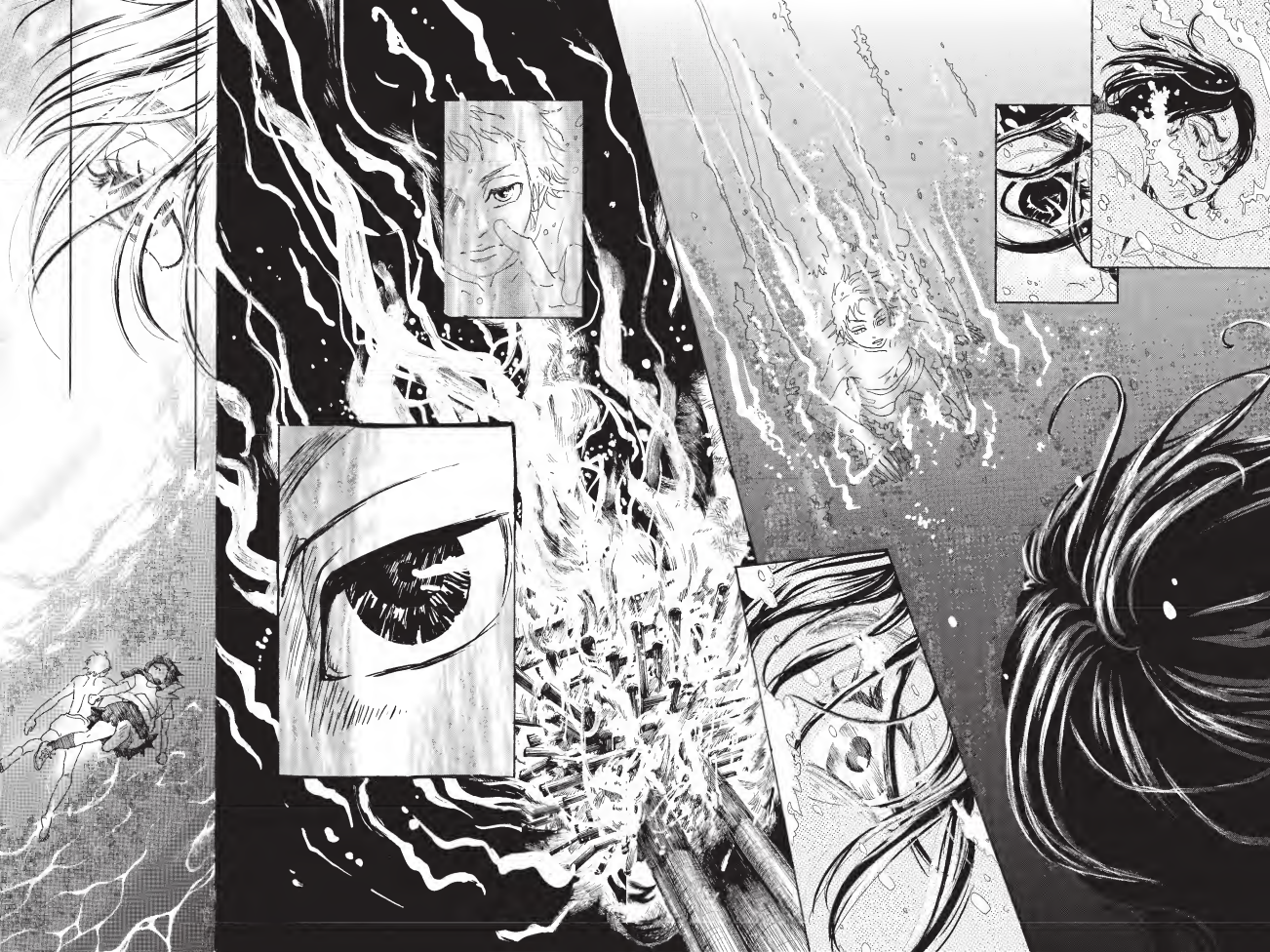


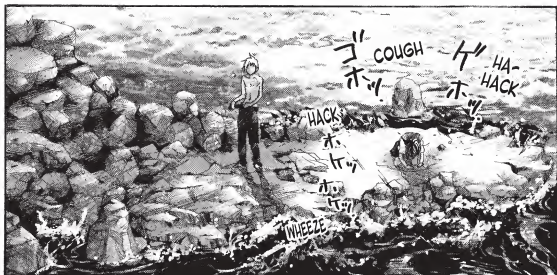
FWOOSH はっ







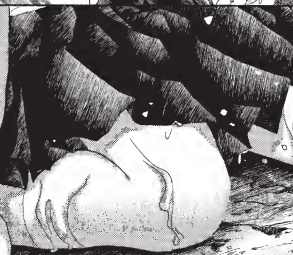






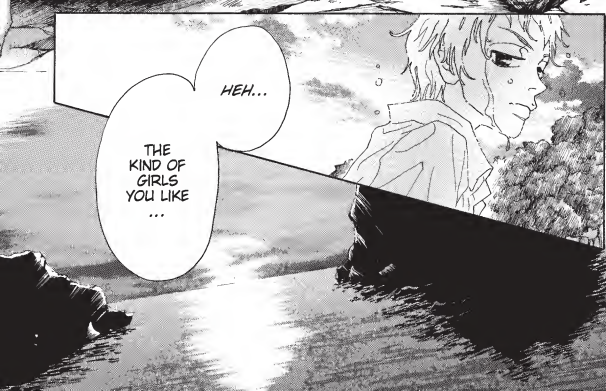
I
HAVEN'T
CHANGED.

...NO.



...I'LL STILL
BE CHASIN'
AFTER YOU,
JUST LIKE
THIS.

I
BET, FOR
THE REST
OF MY
LIFE...



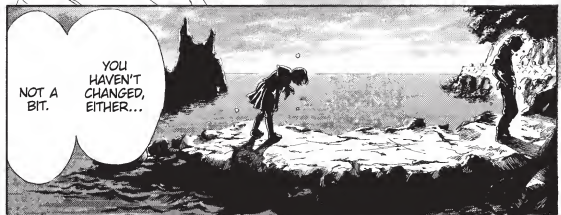
HEH...

THE
KIND OF
GIRLS
YOU LIKE
...



THEY'RE
NOTHING
LIKE ME,

ARE
THEY?



NOT A
BIT.

YOU
HAVEN'T
CHANGED,
EITHER...



IT'S
THE
SAME
NOW...

...AS
IT WAS
BACK
THEN.

...THAT
SAME
FIRE
STILL
BURNS.

DEEP
INSIDE
YOU...



I DON'T
KNOW HOW
TO SAY IT.

*BEAUTIFUL...
BUT
TERRIFYING.*



IT'S
ALMOST
LIKE...

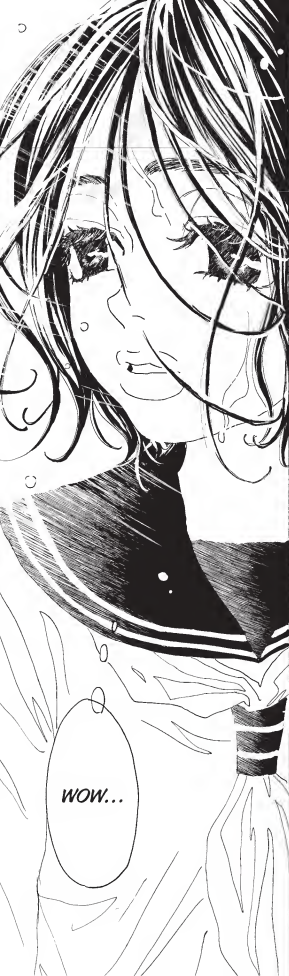
...WHY
YOU
GLOW
LIKE
THAT.

THAT
MUST
BE...



LIKE
YOU'RE A
GOD.





WOW...



...OH.

HUH...

I WONDER IF
I SAID TOO
MUCH?

I JUST
HAD TO
SAY IT.

BUT...
IT'S THE
TRUTH.



IT'S SO
BEAUTIFUL...

...ARE ALL
CAUGHT
UP IN THIS
EMOTIONAL
CURRENT.

...BUT
KOLI-CHAN
AND I...
AND
NATSUME-
CHAN, TOO...

MAYBE IT
WAS THE
EARRING...
MAYBE IT WAS
BECAUSE I
TRESPASSED
IN THE GODS'
SEA...

CONTINUED IN DROWNING LOVE
VOLUME SIX

Drowning Love 5

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